



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Meeting To Discuss Deportees From Libya

NC1709132295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1235 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, the permanent Palestinian envoy to the Arab League, has stated that the issue of Palestinian deportees [from Libya] will be discussed on the sidelines of the Arab foreign ministers meeting at the Arab League on Wednesday [20 September]. Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and the Arab countries concerned with the issue will attend the discussions, he said.

In a statement to MENA, Subayh said the Palestinians are willing to hold direct contacts on the issue to avoid any harmful impact on the Arab side. He noted that the issue of Palestinian refugees is a fixed topic on the Arab League's agenda.

Subayh said all the reports on the conditions of Palestinian deportees on the Egyptian-Libyan border and at the al-Sallum border point have been sent to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and all the Palestinian Authority officials.

He explained that the Egyptian authorities are providing the Palestinian deportees on the Egyptian border with sustenance.

Sudanese Minister Arrives for Talks

NC1809103395 Paris AFP in English
0958 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Sept 18 (AFP)—Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha arrived in Cairo on Monday [18 September] to attend a session of the Arab League, airport sources said.

Taha, who is to attend the league council of foreign ministers on Wednesday, is the most senior Sudanese official to visit Egypt since relations between the two countries fell into crisis in June.

Sudanese State Minister for Finance 'Abd-al-Wahab Ahmad Hamzah was in the Egyptian capital on September 11 for a meeting of league finance ministers.

Sudan withdrew a request to include discussion of "Arab reconciliation" after league head 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said the issue "would only cause more divisions," the Arab daily AL-HAYAH reported on Monday.

'Abd-al-Majid asked Sudan's permanent delegate to withdraw the request on Sunday, the paper said.

"It's enough to discuss the subject in conjunction with the Arab pact of honor," which was already on Wednesday's agenda, Taha told the daily.

On Friday, Egypt said it and Ethiopia were considering joint retaliatory action against Khartoum after their investigations into the June attack on President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa pointed to Sudanese involvement.

Mubarak also decided on Thursday to reduce Egypt's level of representation in Sudan by withdrawing the ambassador and replacing him with a charge d'affaires.

Relations between Egypt and Sudan have been severely strained since the June 26 machine-gun attack on Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa. The president escaped unharmed. Khartoum has denied any responsibility.

Qatar Symposium on Iranian-Arab Relations Held

NC1409074595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Symposium on Iranian-Arab Relations continued in Doha today for the third day running. Our correspondent in Doha, Muhammad Bishkar, sent us this report:

[Begin Bishkar recording] Qatari Information Minister Dr. Hamad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Kuwari has stated that the Symposium on Iranian-Arab Relations is an important step toward strengthening relations between the two sides. Welcoming the media representatives participating in the symposium at a reception in Doha today, he said relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran are very important and must be strengthened, especially under the difficult circumstances the Arab and Islamic worlds are experiencing. He said the convening of the symposium in Doha is a good sign, indicating the importance of strengthening Arab-Iranian relations. Al-Kuwari said Doha's relations with all parties are good, qualifying it to play an important role in this domain.

Meanwhile, the symposium has continued its work. It held three meetings today during which it discussed several topics, including the Kurdish problem and the Arabs and the Iranians' stance on it and the Palestinian issue as it relates to Arab-Iranian relations. Mention was made of the Islamic Revolution of Iran's unlimited support for the Palestinian and Jerusalem issues and of the negative effects the Palestinian issue has suffered as a result of the deterioration of relations between some Arab countries and Iran, especially during the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war.

This evening Amir of Qatar Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani will hold a dinner in honor of the symposium participants. [end recording]

Islamic Affairs

Iran's Velayati Addresses OIC Joint Meeting

LD1409122295 Tehran IRNA in English
1140 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sept. 14, IRNA — Visiting foreign minister of Iran, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, said here Thursday [14 September] that the member states of Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) should make it clear that they are undoubtedly determined to support Bosnian Muslims and achieve justice.

Addressing the first joint meeting of OIC foreign and defense ministers in Kuala Lumpur, Velayati noted that as long as the Serbs enjoyed military superiority were given territorial concessions, it would be impossible to find a lasting political solution to the Bosnian Crisis.

Stressing the need to take an immediate measure to solve the Bosnian crisis, the foreign minister added that Bosnia should be helped so that it could gain the least necessary balance from defensive point of view, strengthen its position in the current peace talks and finally attain a lasting political solution.

Velayati argued that it was the first time that the international community has taken an action against the criminal Serbs in Bosnia, mainly because of the role played by Islamic states in this connection.

Stressing the need for Muslim states to mobilize their resources to support Bosnia, Velayati noted that peace could not be restored to the region, unless the existing military imbalance between belligerent parties is removed.

The recent reaction shown by the international community only aimed at defending the remaining safe havens in Bosnia and not restoring the previous status of Srebrenica and Zepa as safe areas, Velayati said.

Velayati said that a just solution to the Bosnian problem should respect Bosnia's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, should return occupied lands to Bosnian people, and should recognize Sarajevo as an indivisible capital city of the central government.

He added that continuation and firm implementation of decisions made by the international court set up to investigate war crimes as well as honorable return of all Bosnian refugees to their home lands are among other major points which should be taken into consideration in a just solution on Bosnian crisis.

Also addressing the same meeting, Iranian Minister of Defence and Logistics Mohammad Foruzandeh suggested forming a rapid reaction force by the Islamic states to defend Bosnia.

Foruzandeh noted such a force would be able to counter any threat to the people and territorial integrity of Bosnia at any corner of the war-stricken country.

Stressing the need for the unanimity of Islamic states in taking a serious measure to counter any attempt to threaten Bosnian territorial integrity and sovereignty, the defense minister warned if the Islamic nations refused to take such a measure now, they will have to pay a high price for it in the future.

Foruzandeh said that any decision on changing the existing situation should take into consideration the defensive requirements of Bosnia and should seek to help Bosnia attain military balance so as to defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The meeting, inaugurated by Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi here today, is attended by delegates from eight member states of OIC contact group as well as delegates from Jordan, Bangladesh and Indonesia which have peace keeping forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

More Reportage on OIC Meeting

WA1509122595

For additional reports on the Bosnia situation meetings and contacts, held by the Organization of Islamic Conference in Malaysia, see the International Affairs section of the 12 September East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Quray' on Hopes for Peres Meeting

JN1509160795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1400 GMT 15 Sep 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat said he hopes a solution can be found to the problems facing the negotiations during his meeting tomorrow with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. 'Arafat said the meeting will be held in either Cairo or Taba.

In a joint news conference he held with Alfred Nzo, South Africa's foreign minister, following their meeting in the Presidential Offices in Gaza today, 'Arafat said his meeting with Peres is the last chance available since the discussions must end before 21 September. 'Arafat said:

I look forward to seeing what we signed in Washington implemented perfectly.

'Arafat asked Nzo to convey his greetings to President Nelson Mandela and to F.W. de Klerk, executive deputy president. He urged them to help boost the peace process, stressing that there is no alternative to peace.

For his part, South Africa's foreign minister said he hopes the Palestinian people could enjoy peace like the people of South Africa. He stressed that Palestine and South Africa have been standing side by side for a long time.

Under the patronage of President Yasir 'Arafat and in the presence of Health Minister Riyadh al-Za'nun, Nabil Sha'th, planning and international cooperation minister, signed with the South African foreign minister a protocol of joint cooperation before the joint news conference. The news conference was followed by a lunch banquet hosted by the president in honor of the South African official and the guest delegation.

In a related development, Ahmad Quray', minister of trade and economy and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Elat negotiations, said that if difficulties are overcome during the meeting between President 'Arafat and Peres tomorrow, an agreement will be signed on 21 September.

Quray' pointed out that if no progress is made concerning the Hebron issue, there will be no solution. Quray' added that the Palestinian negotiating team met with President 'Arafat at the Presidential Offices in Gaza today and briefed him on the results of the recent round of negotiations, which was concluded in Elat this morning.

Quray' noted the existence of many obstacles in the negotiations, especially the Hebron issue, the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli occupation prisons, the electricity and water issues, and the security file.

Envoy Says Taba Talks To Continue, Rabin To Join
NC1609202695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1932 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo 16 Sep (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, Palestinian permanent envoy to the Arab League, has stated that the talks which Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will hold in Taba today will continue until tomorrow, Sunday, and that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is expected to join the talks.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, Subayh said the Palestinians and Israelis are intensifying their efforts to find a solution to the four problems that still obstruct the signing of an agreement on

the expansion of self rule. Chief among these problems, he said, is the fate of Hebron.

Subayh said the presence of 400 Israeli settlers in Hebron should not hinder Israeli withdrawal from the city, especially since the Palestinian Authority [PA] has pledged to provide security for them.

He noted that differences still exist over responsibility for providing electricity and water services to the settlers in Hebron. There is also the issue of Palestinian prisoners and detainees (5,000 people), whose release the PA is demanding, and the issue of security in the self-rule areas, he said.

Abu-Middayn Criticizes Israel on Detainees

JN1709160095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1400 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn said that Israel's demand that Palestinian convicts in the Palestinian National Authority area must be handed over to Israel is an attempt by Israel to avoid discussing the subject of the Palestinian detainees. Abu-Middayn said that the Palestinian Authority is committed to the Cairo agreement which was signed by the two sides concerning the extradition of wanted individuals.

Abu-Middayn noted that if any wanted individual fits the clauses of the agreement, we will hand him over but we will not link this issue to the release of Palestinian detainees.

Hebron Mayor Demands Jewish Settlers' Evacuation

TA1809102895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1000 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah is demanding that the Jewish settlers be evacuated from Hebron as a condition for an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. Al-Natshah made these remarks to our political correspondent Shlomo Raz in Taba. The Hebron mayor rejects any possibility of leaving the settlers in Hebron under the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] protection.

Hebron Mayor al-Natshah and several other Hebron dignitaries are in Taba after 'Arafat summoned them yesterday to participate in the talks with Foreign Minister Peres.

The talks between Peres and 'Arafat will resume in Taba this afternoon. The prime minister is slated to hold a meeting with Prime Minister Rabin shortly.

PA, Hamas Reportedly Reach Agreement To Stop Attacks*NC1409113795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0950 GMT 14 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed Palestinian sources have revealed that Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has accepted in principle a draft agreement between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and his movement to stop Hamas' military operations against Israel.

The English-language AL-AHRAM WEEKLY cites these sources as saying that Shaykh Ahmad Yasin approved the draft during a meeting with five Palestinians, including a Fatah member, in his prison cell in Israel. However, he asked that more religious flavor be added to the draft.

The Palestinian sources said the Israeli authorities facilitated the meeting to help the PA in its efforts to reach an agreement with Hamas to stop military attacks by the movement against Israeli targets. These attacks constitute a major obstacle to the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

AL-AHRAM WEEKLY says the draft is a modified version of a previous draft that had served as a framework for negotiations between a team of Hamas local leaders, including Mahmud al-Zahhar, and the PA since powers were transferred to the PA in July.

The paper says both Hamas and the PA realize the need to deal with each other and not to push their differences to the point of no return. The PA is eager to win strong popular support to strengthen its position with Israel, and Hamas realizes that engaging in an all-out confrontation with the PA may endanger the very existence of the movement.

But the paper says it is unlikely that many Hamas leaders, especially those in exile, will support the agreement unconditionally. It says some Hamas leaders abroad have indeed expressed reservations.

The paper says the draft agreement represents a breakthrough in the negotiations between the two sides and provides a framework for the next round of talks between them, even if it is not finalized in the near future.

The draft states that PLO obligations resulting from its agreements with Israel — which include a halt to all military operations originating from the Palestinian self-rule areas — will be respected. It provides for ending all internal conflicts between the Palestinian factions and adopting democratic dialogue as a means to reach realistic solutions to protect the interests of the Palestinian people and achieve their objectives. The

draft also provides for focusing on issues of concern to the Palestinians, such as Jerusalem, prisoners, and Israeli settlements.

The draft stresses the need to build the institutions of Palestinian civil society and recognizes the right of Hamas members to participate in PA institutions on equal footing and irrespective of political or ideological differences.

The draft calls for work to create a proper climate to underscore the spirit of confidence and cooperation among all groups of Palestinians, including refraining from issuing provocative statements that undermine national unity.

It provides for the formation of a consultative structure to offer advice to the PA in the interest of the Palestinian people.

It also provides for the formation of a standing coordination committee from Fatah and Hamas to discuss any new developments with a view to finding proper solutions to them to serve Palestinian interests.

South African Foreign Minister Visits 'Palestine'**Meets 'Arafat Meets in Gaza***JN1509150795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1208 GMT 15 Sep 95*

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza; from "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat received at the Presidential Office in Gaza today Alfred Nzo, the South African foreign minister. Nzo is visiting Palestine for the first time. He toured Gaza, accompanied by Dr. Riyadh al-Za'nun, the South African health minister.

Following the Friday prayer, President 'Arafat met with Nzo at the Presidential Office. 'Arafat and Nzo discussed developments in the peace process, especially developments in the Palestinian-Israeli track. They also discussed spheres of bilateral cooperation. [passage omitted]

Signs Cooperation Agreement*MB1609154995 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network
in English 1100 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PLO [Palestine Liberation Organization] leader Yasir 'Arafat has called on South Africa to support Palestinians in their negotiations with Israel on self-determination. Speaking in Gaza City during a visit by South African Foreign Minister Alfred

Nzo, Mr. 'Arafat said South Africa should help to promote the peace process in the Middle East.

During the ceremony, the two men signed a cooperation agreement, the first since ties were established between the Palestinian state and South Africa in February.

Meets al-Husayni at Orient House

JN1609151195 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1400 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni and a number of Palestinian personalities met with Alfred Nzo, South African foreign minister, and his delegation at the Orient House in Jerusalem this morning.

Discussions dealt with the peace process in general, Jerusalem and the Israeli practices in the city, in addition to cooperation between the Palestinian and South African peoples.

Al-Husayni explained the situation in Jerusalem and the continuous Israeli attempts to isolate the city and prevent Palestinians from entering it, in addition to the fierce campaign against the national establishments in Jerusalem.

Al-Husayni said Israel should stop all its activities aimed to change the features of Jerusalem before the negotiations on the final status. He stressed the importance of Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinians and as a commercial and spiritual center. Al-Husayni also spoke about the obstacles Israel places for the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles under a security pretext. He said security is a joint subject for the Palestinians and the Israelis.

The guest minister expressed pleasure to visit the Orient House, and his country's continuous support for the Palestinian people. He said friendship between the South African people and the Palestinian people dates back to many years. He stressed that bi'ateral, friendly, and cooperative relations should be maintained.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres asked Nzo to not visit the Orient House, but the South African minister rejected the request.

Al-Husayni Meets Japan's Yanai, Comments on Hebron

TA1709123095 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1105 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni has said he is pleased that the murderers of Halhul resident Salman Za'marah have been captured and that it does not matter whether they are Arabs or Jews. In an interview with our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem, al-Husayni said

the Hebron issue can be easily resolved if the Jewish families living in Hebron agree to live in the city under the command of the Palestinian Police or to move to Qiryat Arba'. Al-Husayni made the remarks after his meeting with the Japanese deputy foreign minister at Orient House. The meeting dealt with the peace process and financial aid to the Palestinians. Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Menahem] Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Shuji Yanai came to Orient House at noon to receiving a briefing from al-Husayni on the peace process and to present the Palestinians with economic aid. The deputy minister promised the Palestinians additional aid. Orient House officials say his visit was coordinated with the Foreign Ministry and the Israel Police, but Yanai refused to answer my question on whether Japan considers East Jerusalem the Palestinian capital.

[Yanai, in English] I am not in a position to make any comment on the final status of this place because this must be decided upon by the parties directly concerned. But, in the meantime, we would like to help the people.

[Ben-Menahem translates the above and continues] I asked al-Husayni for his response to the capture of Salman Za'marah's murderers.

[Al-Husayni] I am pleased that they captured the murderers. We wanted them captured quickly, regardless of whether they are Jews or Arabs.

[Ben-Menahem] With regard to Hebron and the proposals made in the negotiations, as far as you know, has progress been made and will they complete the negotiations by 21 September?

[Al-Husayni] If the Israeli side has the necessary wisdom and balance, I think we can resolve that problem.

[Ben-Menahem] How do you think it can be resolved?

[Al-Husayni] Thirty-nine families live in Hebron. They must either accept that they live under occupation by the Palestinian Police or leave the site and go live in Qiryat Arba'.

[Ben-Menahem] al-Husayni also said the release of all the security prisoners from Israeli jails is essential for the success of the agreement. [end recording]

Arab-Israeli Talks**'Arafat, Peres Meet in Taba To Discuss Self-Rule****Egypt Helps Clear 'Obstacles'***NC1509120895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1135 GMT 15 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza, 15 Sep (MENA)—A MENA correspondent in Gaza has learned that the contacts Egypt held in the past 24 hours with Israel and the Palestinian Authority have produced positive results and have helped remove many obstacles that obstruct the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, including the issue of elections in Jerusalem. The MENA correspondent has also learned that these results will become clear at the meeting on Saturday [16 September] night between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Sources do not rule out the possibility of holding this meeting in Cairo and of signing the agreement in Washington next week. Informed sources point out that intensive contacts were held among Israel, Egypt, and the United States yesterday to overcome the obstacles impeding the second phase agreement between Palestine and Israel on expanding the self-rule powers in the West Bank. [passage omitted]

'Arafat, Peres Begin Talks*NC1709054995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 17 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held talks in Taba early this morning in an attempt to resolve contentious issues between the two sides on expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

The 'Arafat-Peres talks are expected to continue until tomorrow.

Hebron Proposal, Reaction Detailed*TA1709060895*

[FBIS Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 17 September reports that "in an effort to resolve the issue of Hebron, the main stumbling block to expanding self-rule, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres apparently proposed to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat that overseers from the Hebron Municipality maintain a presence in the area of the West Bank city that would remain under Israeli control, including the site of the Cave of the Patriarchs. According to the plan, there would be Palestinian police and international observers present in the city to increase normalization. Israel also said the marketplace, closed for an exten-

sive period of time, would be opened, additional water would be supplied, and more work permits would be distributed.

"The talks between Peres and 'Arafat lasted into the night at the Egyptian resort of Taba. The two are due to resume their discussions this morning. Israel has requested that all differences be resolved as one package. The Israeli delegation said the Palestinians need to clarify whether they expect to reach an accord during this round so that Washington can be informed on whether or not a signing ceremony will take place this week at the White House.

"Arafat's spokesman said the talks were frank but stressed that the Palestinians would not allow time factors to influence an agreement."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 17 September, in a report by Shlomo Raz from Taba, carries a short recorded statement by Foreign Minister Peres following his talks with 'Arafat. Peres says: "We sat together for several hours, during which various proposals were raised on most of the disputed issues. The Palestinian delegation asked for time to hold consultations. We discussed not only Hebron but also other — in fact, most of the controversial — issues."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 17 September carries a related report by Ben Kaspi, 'Oded Granot, and Shefi Gabay on page 3, adding that, according to the Israeli proposal, "Israel will announce that Hebron is a Palestinian city like all the other West Bank cities" and that "the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in Hebron will be thinned out in stages until the status of the town is worked out in a permanent arrangement."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 17 September carries a related report by David Makovsky, Alon Pinkas, and Lamia Lahoud on page 1, adding that a Palestinian negotiator "said Israel is proposing a division of Hebron into areas with A, B and C status, as was done with the territories." The negotiator "said it was likely that Palestinian-populated areas of the city and roads which are only used by Palestinians would get the status of area A. This means the IDF would withdraw from these areas, with the Palestinians taking over all responsibilities, including security.

"Main roads used by both settlers and Palestinians and most of Hebron's old city would probably be area B, the negotiator said. In area B, Israel would remain responsible for overall security while the Palestinian Police will be in charge of public order.

"The settlement in the old city and military installations would probably get the status of area C, which will

remain under Israeli control, he added. Roads and villages around Hebron would be part of area B."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 17 September carries a report by Knesset correspondent Hadar Vismansky, adding: "The opposition parties were shocked last night when they heard the details of the agreement made with the Palestinians on Hebron. Israel has once again caved in and is groveling before 'Arafat in a manner that will lead only to bloodshed, Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan warned." The report adds that "the Likud believes this is a dangerous move designed to make the life of Jews in Hebron very difficult and to jeopardize their security in order to pressure them into leaving the city." National Religious Party Chairman Zvulun Hammer is reported to have said that Foreign Minister Peres must start "begging for forgiveness" for the deal being made on Hebron.

'Arafat Adviser Abu-Rudaynah: 'No Progress'

JN1709085495 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
0511 GMT 17 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, in Taba, by Fathi al-Barqawi in the studio, from the "New Day" feature — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Barqawi] Good morning, brother Nabil.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Good morning, brother Fathi.

[Al-Barqawi] Sorry to have to call you now. We know that the talks continued until dawn.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Yes, the talks continued until 0400 today. The meeting will continue at 1030 today to resume last night's discussion.

[Al-Barqawi] It has been reported that the meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres ended without achieving any progress. Were the talks fruitless?

[Abu-Rudaynah] The talks began last night with a closed meeting between President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and Peres, which was followed by another meeting between the two delegations. We cannot say that an agreement on Hebron was reached, but the two delegations reviewed ideas and proposals on the issue of Hebron. Other issues were also reviewed during the talks. As I told you, the talks will resume this morning. No agreement has been reached on what was presented by the Israeli side, and today we will see where things will go.

[Al-Barqawi] Yesterday, I heard the Israeli Foreign Ministry director general saying that Israel will present proposals on Hebron during the Taba talks.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Some proposals were presented, but what was presented is not considered sufficient or accepted by the Palestinian side. The talks will resume today to see how we can overcome these difficulties.

[Al-Barqawi] During the past three days, the Israeli officials tried to create an atmosphere of optimism. Was this part of their strategy?

[Abu-Rudaynah] What we heard during the talks yesterday regarding the issue of Hebron was not sufficient. We call for dealing with Hebron like any other Palestinian city, exactly as set out in the Declaration of Principles [DOP] signed by the Government of Israel and the PLO. What is required is the redeployment of the Israeli Army in preparation for holding Palestinian elections. No progress has been achieved in this regard. As I said, the talks will resume today to try to overcome the existing difficulties.

[Al-Barqawi] Hebron is not the only problem. Are there other problems, brother Nabil?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Yes. No agreement was reached on many other issues. However, the Palestinian negotiators have placed the issue of Hebron at the top of the list of issues which should be resolved. If the issue of Hebron is resolved, the other issues will be resolved, although they are many and complicated. However, resolving the issue of Hebron is a top priority so that the Israeli army will pull out of it, just as it left the other Palestinian cities in preparation for holding elections.

[Al-Barqawi] In politics, there is no optimism or pessimism, but what do you expect from today's meeting?

[Abu-Rudaynah] I hope the Israelis will abide by what was stipulated in the DOP, which frankly provides for the redeployment of the Israeli Army and its withdrawal from cities, villages, camps, and populated areas. If the Israelis do not abide by this, and if they do not take a clear political decision to redeploy their forces and withdraw them from the West Bank, then the whole peace process will be at stake. There are ongoing Egyptian and U.S. efforts which we hope will succeed. It is not a matter of optimism or pessimism; we must reach agreements on certain issues, we must face facts, and the Israelis must abide by the concept of withdrawal and redeployment from cities, villages, and camps to hold free, fair elections far away from occupation. The Palestinian decision says there will be no elections under occupation and the Israeli Army must withdraw from the cities, villages, camps, and populated areas.

[Al-Barqawi] Brother Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, thank you, and again, we are sorry.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Thank you.

'Arafat, Peres Resume Talks

NC1709094395 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0858 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 17 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres resumed their talks in Taba today to discuss ways to remove obstacles to signing an agreement on implementing the second phase of the Oslo accord.

'Arafat and Peres met last night to discuss these obstacles, most notably the issues of Hebron, water and electricity distribution, and Palestinian detainees.

[In a related report, Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic at 0900 GMT on 17 September adds the following: "The Palestinian President's spokesman, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, stated today that the Palestinian side regarded the Israeli foreign minister's ideas and proposals on Hebron during his talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Taba last night as insufficient. Abu-Rudaynah added that the same thing applies to other issues concerning the Israeli forces' redeployment in the city."

"[Abu-Rudaynah said the Palestinian and Israeli sides will resume talks this morning to discuss ways to overcome difficulties facing the negotiations.]"

Agreement 'Close' on East Jerusalem Poll Plan

NC1709111895 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1050 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 17 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian sources have stated that the Palestinian delegation negotiating with the Israeli side is inclined toward accepting the principle of East Jerusalem residents voting in post offices in the Palestinian elections.

The head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation yesterday said the Palestinian and Israeli sides were close to reaching an agreement on the issue.

The first session of the latest talks ended early this morning without any tangible progress, especially on Hebron. The Palestinian side insists that what applies to West Bank cities under the self-rule agreement should also apply to the city of Hebron. The Palestinian side also rejects the Israeli delegation's demands concerning special security arrangements in Hebron because of the settlers in the city.

Extradition of Hebron Settlers Debated

TA1709114995 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1100 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The second Peres-'Arafat meeting is continuing in Taba. This meeting also began as a tete-a-tete but was later expanded to include aides to both leaders. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that one of the main issues in dispute is the extradition matter. Israel is insisting that evacuated West Bank territories not become safe havens for terrorists but, at the same time, it wants to give the Palestinians a decent start at autonomy. According to several assessments, many gaps still divide the sides. Israeli delegation sources said that if the negotiations are not completed by 18 September, when 'Arafat is due to meet with the Japanese prime minister in Gaza, it will not be possible to conclude the deliberations this week.

Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir said that it is too early to know whether the Oslo B accord will be signed in Washington on 21 September. In an interview to Qol Yisra'el, Savir said that the two sides convening in Taba have presented their proposals and the negotiations are beginning now. Savir stressed that Israel wants to anchor the defense issue in an agreement to make sure that terrorists do not find safe havens in Palestinian cities.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 17 September carries a related report by Udi Segal, adding: "Regarding the issue of Hebron, 'Arafat is now demanding that Israel guarantee to evacuate the settlers in the future as a condition for accepting the principle of Israeli responsibility for security in the city for the duration of the interim arrangement." In a recorded statement in English, Marwan Kanafani, 'Arafat's spokesman, says: "Eventually they should go out of Hebron, but for the time being we are ready to have some arrangements that will make this eviction possible in the future. We want this linked to a very precise and obvious and clear, explicit timetable that will tell us what's going to happen a week from now, a month from now. This is the only thing we are asking, and I don't think this is too much."]

'Intensive Efforts' Made To Prevent Failure

NC1709141795 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1330 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 17 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian delegation sources to the Taba talks have said that intensive efforts are now being made to prevent the failure of the current round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. The sources said these efforts

basically focus on the status of the city of Hebron, which is the main obstacle in the negotiations.

The sources said in a statement today that various compromises on the status of Hebron have been offered. One of these proposes that the Palestinian Authority be in charge of the Palestinian quarters of the city while the Israeli police assume responsibility for the security of the settlers through special arrangements to be agreed upon with the Palestinians.

The Palestinian sources expected a meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this week to try to resolve the contentious points that cannot be settled during the current talks in Taba and before the signing of the agreement on the second stage of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles in Washington at the end of this month.

'Sources' on Israeli Proposals, Expected Agreement
NC1709150895 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1410 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 17 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian sources expect the meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, which began in Taba yesterday, to come up with solutions to the issues that still hinder an agreement, notably Hebron and the participation of Jerusalem residents in the elections.

A MENA correspondent in Gaza has learned that the new proposals Peres carried to Taba yesterday recognize Hebron as a Palestinian city over which the Palestinian Authority will have full responsibility, except for the areas where settlers live. These areas will be under the supervision of the Israeli Army and international observers. The security of the religious cites in the Ibrahimi shrine will also be under joint supervision.

As for Jerusalem elections, the Israelis are proposing that the polls take place through five postal centers instead of two centers in Palestinian populated areas.

The release of prisoners remains a problem at the negotiations. The Israelis want to release 2,200 prisoners in three stages. Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails number about 6,000.

A Palestinian source has stated that Egypt's recent intensive contacts with all sides, including the United States, have largely helped solve many problems that obstructed the negotiations in the past weeks. The same source said the Palestinian position on the new Israeli proposals will not be decided before the end of the talks between 'Arafat and Peres in Taba. If the proposals are accepted, the agreement will be initialed in Cairo before

the final signing in Washington on Thursday, the source said.

Adviser Kanafani on Peres' Proposals

JN1709160695 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1400 GMT 17 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan Kanafani, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, in Taba, by unidentified correspondent, in the studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Hello, brother Marwan. Your telephone call has been delayed, and your telephone line has been busy.

[Kanafani] In fact, we were trying to contact you.

[Correspondent] Regarding the document on Hebron which Peres carried with him, it seems that there is a kind of Israeli bargaining in terms of Palestinian police in Hebron, unarmed observers, more international presence, Israeli normalization toward Palestinians in Hebron, removal of roadblocks, more water supplies to the old town in Hebron, and a large increase in the number of work permits in Israel.

[Kanafani] All these matters are good. However, they have nothing to do with Hebron because it is a Palestinian city that should receive the same treatment as other Palestinian cities in terms of Israeli redeployment and the National Authority's assumption of power there. All that you have said is good and should be part of an agreement. However, this has nothing to do with the basic issue. In other words, Hebron is, and will continue to be, a Palestinian city.

[Correspondent] It seems that Peres also has a position. He says: I want to reach agreement, and the one who knows me realizes that I will not give concessions.

[Kanafani] An agreement cannot be reached in this case because there is an attempt to impose an agreement. You know that we are not interested in imposed agreements. The Palestinian delegation, which is led by President 'Arafat, came here with an open heart and in good faith to reach an agreement which will provide for implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles and for the Palestinian National Authority's assumption of power in all Palestinian cities. Hebron is the most important Palestinian city. Moreover, Hebron and its suburbs have the highest population.

Less important issues should not be highlighted. For example, supplying Hebron with water is not actually a good-will gesture but a duty within this context. [passage omitted]

Talks Continue; Ross Calls Reported

JN1709194995 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1900 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres resumed in Taba this evening. Thus far, there has been no announcement on progress regarding outstanding issues, especially the issue of Hebron.

Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, reiterated the National Authority's rejection of any non-Palestinian custodianship over the city of Hebron. Kanafani, who was speaking to the Voice of Palestine this evening, said the Palestinian delegation adheres to a principled stand toward the city of Hebron; namely, to deal with it just like the other Palestinian cities.

President Yasir 'Arafat this afternoon summoned the Hebron mayor and several dignitaries of the governorate to Taba for consultations.

In another development, Dennis Ross, U.S. special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, held two telephone conversations with President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Ross informed them that U.S. President Bill Clinton would like them to sign the agreement in Washington on 21 September.

'Arafat Adviser Kanafani Notes 'Some Progress'

NC1709172095 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1650 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 17 Sep (MENA)—Marwan Kanafani, spokesman for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that some progress has been made in the talks between President 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The Israelis are expressing their willingness to resolve the problem so that Hebron will become a Palestinian city.

Kanafani told reporters in Taba today that the most important thing is to reach a good agreement. The Palestinian side will not allow time to be the factor deciding negotiations.

On the other hand, Shim'on Peres said after the morning meeting: We met for a few hours and various proposals were made regarding the various issues of conflict. The Palestinian delegation asked for some time for consultation.

Peres, al-Natshah, Segev on Difficulties

TA1709173695 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1605 GMT 17 Sep 95

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz in Taba]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Even Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is still unable to answer the intriguing question of whether a signing ceremony will take place in Washington this week.

[Begin recording] [Peres] I estimate the negotiations will continue until tomorrow morning. We will have a long meeting tonight with both arguments and agreements. In any event, we will do our best to conclude the negotiations.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, the meeting has been going on since yesterday. Has any progress been made? Can you identify any points of accord?

[Peres] I can do many things, but I am not going to.

[Israel TV Channel 1 correspondent Dan Scemama] Has Yasir 'Arafat displayed a positive approach in his talks with you? Has he shown a desire to promote and conclude the negotiations?

[Peres] I think that, basically, Yasir 'Arafat is interested in attaining an agreement, but he has problems with certain members of the public. Right now he is meeting with the people from Hebron. We will see. [end recording]

Hebron remains the main problem, and 'Arafat, who is interested in arriving at an agreement, as we have just heard, summoned to Taba a delegation from Hebron headed by Mayor al-Natshah. As we know, Israel has proposed that the Palestinians deploy municipal inspectors throughout Hebron, including the Cave of the Patriarchs area. In reply to my question, al-Natshah rejected this Israeli proposal:

[Begin recording, in English] [al-Natshah] We want the Palestinian National Authority to command the whole city.

[Raz] So you reject the Israeli idea.

[Al-Natshah] Yes, of course. Future of Hebron is like the other cities. What is the difference between Hebron and Nabulus? There is no difference. [end recording]

Another problem, which is not as crucial but has nevertheless held up the negotiations, is electricity. Deciding that the discussions were futile, Energy Minister Gonen Segev walked out on the Taba talks.

[Begin Segev recording] There is still a crisis with regard to the electricity issue. I must tell you, the

latest Palestinian stand is a setback, not progress. [end recording]

Gonen Segev says that only if the Palestinians change their stand will he return to the talks. [passage omitted]

'Arafat, Peres Hold Third Round Talks

NC1709214495 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
2123 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 17 Sep (MENA)—The third round of talks resumed in Taba this evening between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Sources close to the negotiations told MENA that various working committees and groups are currently examining all issues under discussion to reach an agreement. These sources said that the main negotiation committee, which comprises Yasir 'Arafat; Shim'on Peres; Uri Savir, Israeli Foreign Ministry director general; and 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah, the mayor of Hebron, is discussing the redeployment of the Israeli forces in Hebron. In the meantime, a committee is formulating all points on which agreement will be reached during the negotiations. The working groups also include a committee to discuss legal matters, a committee on water, a committee on electricity, and a committee on the Palestinian detainees.

Peres said before this round of talks that the negotiations are crucial and that results must be reached.

This round of talks is scheduled to end late tonight or at dawn before 'Arafat leaves Taba for Gaza to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, who will visit the self-rule area as part of his current tour of the region.

Agreement Reached on Water, Elections

NC1809053395 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0510 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 18 Sep (MENA)—The third round of talks between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres ended at 0430 today. The talks lasted four hours.

MENA has learned that agreement has been reached on the water and election issues but no agreement has yet been reached on the Hebron issue.

Official Palestinian spokesman Nabil Abu-Rudaynah said progress has been made during the talks but it is not enough to sign the agreement on the second phase of Palestinian self-rule. He said the two sides are closer, especially after their agreement on the water and election issues. He explained that 'Arafat has briefed the Egyptian leadership and the U.S. Administration on the progress made thus far. He said the Palestinian stance

on Hebron is firm; it calls for the redeployment of the Israeli forces outside the town, like other Palestinian towns.

Peres said great progress has been made but he ruled out the possibility of the agreement being signed by Thursday [21 September]. He said he will consult with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the outstanding differences.

The talks between 'Arafat and Peres will resume later today.

Peres Doubts Accord To Be Signed This Week

TA1809053795 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0500 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres believes the agreement on expanding the autonomy will not be signed in Washington this week. The negotiations will resume this afternoon, however, and the sides will make another effort to initial the agreement on expanding the autonomy. The meeting between Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat ended early this morning after some 14 hours of deliberations. The heads of the Israeli delegation continued their consultations after the meeting ended.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that in last night's meeting, agreement was reached on the issues of water and elections in the territories. The main bone of contention, however — namely, who will control Hebron — has not been resolved. Minister Peres said that the delegation from Hebron, headed by Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah, gave up its demand to remove the Jewish settlers from Hebron after it was told that such a demand does not have the backing of a majority in Israel.

Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, a member of the Palestinian delegation, told correspondents that the positions of the sides regarding the Hebron issue are moving closer, but the gap is still too wide.

News agencies report that Dennis Ross, head of the U.S. peace team, is in constant touch with Peres and 'Arafat.

Yasir 'Arafat will meet with the Japanese prime minister in Gaza this morning and will then return to Taba. Leaving Taba, 'Arafat said it is still impossible to say when the agreement will be signed.

Minister Peres will hold consultations with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Jerusalem.

Abu-Rudaynah: No Agreement Reached on Hebron
JN1809083195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0505 GMT 18 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, in Taba, by Fathi al-Barqawi in the studio, from the "New Day" feature — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Barqawi] Good morning, brother Nabil.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Good morning to you, brother Fathi.

[Al-Barqawi] We always disturb you, knowing you've had only a few hours sleep.

[Abu-Rudaynah] On the contrary, this is my duty.

[Al-Barqawi] Thank you. When did last night's negotiations end?

[Abu-Rudaynah] The meetings which were intensive and uninterrupted lasted until 0400. The negotiations did not reach any results with respect to the city of Hebron. There still are thorny and pending issues with respect to this city. The negotiations will resume this afternoon after the meeting with the Japanese prime minister in Gaza. The Palestinian stand on Hebron is explicit and firm; the need to tackle Hebron in the same manner as the other Palestinian cities in accordance with the Declaration of Principles signed between the PLO and the Israeli Government. No agreement was reached in this respect. That's why no agreement was reached too on the overall peace process, as yet.

[Al-Barqawi] Even with respect to the elections?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Yes. No date can be set for the elections before an agreement on the Israeli army's withdrawal from all the cities, and its redeployment. There is a clear and firm decision that there can be no elections under occupation, and that the Israeli army must withdraw from the cities and populated areas so that free, fair, and democratic elections may be held.

[Al-Barqawi] Brother Nabil, what about the inhabitants of Arab Jerusalem?

[Abu-Rudaynah] As yet, there is no problem on this issue. But, all the technical points have not been settled. Agreement was reached that the Jerusalem inhabitants will participate in the elections. They will have the right to nomination, voting, and election. The only outstanding technical problem is to decide on the place where the Jerusalem inhabitants will vote. Some progress was achieved by the other committees. There was some progress in the water committee. However, agreement still needs to be reached on many issues. Brother Fathi, as I said a short while ago, the

Hebron issue remains the main thorny issue on which no agreement has been reached. The negotiations will resume this afternoon. It is far-fetched that the signing of the agreement will take place on 21 September as a result of the failure to reach an agreement on the Hebron issue.

[Al-Barqawi] Then, the Israeli optimism was fabricated and tactical?

[Abu-Rudaynah] It was not based on objective grounds as many issues still need to be discussed and agreed upon.

[Al-Barqawi] There are still many issues, as you say, including the issue of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Yes, there are many proposals. The Palestinian stand is clear. Israel should release all prisoners, particularly female detainees. There is a Palestinian draft proposal which clearly spells out the Palestinian stand. No final agreement has been reached on this draft. There are Israeli proposals on this issue which, as yet, remain unacceptable. But, as I told you, progress was made in all the committees but this progress has not been sufficient to sign an agreement, particularly on the issue of Hebron.

[Al-Barqawi] It seems that Israel seeks to link the detainees with what they refer to as the suspects?

[Abu-Rudaynah] First of all, there is an independent Palestinian legal system. There are laws governing our relationship with this issue. The Palestinian Justice Ministry has a stand, and there is a Palestinian law, which ultimately will prevail.

[Al-Barqawi] Then, can we say that no pressure has been brought to bear on the Palestinian delegation?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Certainly not.

[Al-Barqawi] We all support the Palestinian constants.

[Abu-Rudaynah] God willing.

[Al-Barqawi] Thank you and until we meet again.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Brother Fathi, thank you and until we meet again.

Agreement Reached on Jerusalem Elections

JN1809084495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0600 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat has stated that it was agreed in Taba that the Palestinian [legislative] council which is scheduled to be elected will comprise 82 members to be elected

by 16 constituencies, including the Jerusalem and Gaza Strip constituencies.

Dr. 'Urayqat said that the head of the executive authority will be elected by direct suffrage. As for the head of the council, he will be elected by the members.

The Palestinian and Israeli sides have agreed on the special arrangements for elections in the Jerusalem constituency. Nominations, elections, and voting will take place through the post offices in Salah al-Din Street, al-Tur, Shu'fat, Bayt Hanina, and the old city. Free election campaigns will be allowed and there will be complete international supervision of the elections, including elections in Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

'Urayqat Details Accord on Elections

TA1809083895 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0800 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, who is in charge of the elections on behalf of the Palestinian

Authority, says the Palestinians and Israel have agreed that the elected autonomy council will include 82 members to be elected in 16 voting areas, including the Jerusalem area. East Jerusalem residents will vote at five post offices located on Salah al-Din Street and in al-Tur, Shu'fat, and Bayt Hanina, and they will be allowed to conduct an unfettered election campaign.

The head of the executive authority [rashut hamevatza'at] will be directly elected by the residents of the territories, while the head of the council will be elected by the council members. The elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip — including East Jerusalem — will be held under international supervision. This has been reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Algeria

President Zeroual Addresses Nation on Elections

LD1609223795 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Sep 95

[Speech by President Liamine Zeroual in Algiers on 16 September]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; prayers and peace upon the noblest of messengers; male and female citizens inside Algeria and abroad:

When I addressed you last year on the 40th anniversary of the outbreak of the glorious November revolution, I showed you the facts of the complicated crisis Algeria was living through. I also showed you the efforts exerted and still being made by the state to extract the country from this predicament. I also explained to you the reasons behind the impasse that was exposing the future of the country to great dangers. I announced that the final word will be yours only through recourse to the elections, which constitute the only source of legitimacy.

Since then, and during the last 10 months, the national scene has recorded numerous events, some of which revealed once again the state's sincere will to restore civil security and consolidate the national consensus through dialogue. At the same time, other events have revealed a large measure of selfishness, calculating, and maneuvering. This sort of selfishness, calculating, and maneuvering fed a crisis that targeted all segments of the nation indiscriminately.

However, in the same period and despite all the attacks and challenges, the national arena has particularly noted the exemplary proof of your courage and fighting spirit, you the citizens. Indeed, brothers and sisters, you have again stressed your determination to safeguard and build Algeria through your response to the call for the defense of the homeland and also through your clear denunciation of the criminal violence. Your rejection of the suicidal impasse is an exemplary proof.

Such is the real dynamic of the national recovery, which keeps hopes alive. The presidential elections aim to release this dynamic even more. These elections will be, with God's assistance, a cradle for renewal and the break with the past, which you are all legitimately demanding and to which I am personally committed out of a deep conviction.

These elections will also enable the Algerian people to recover their full right to choose their leaders away from any guardianship or powersharing. These leaders will be elected by the sovereign people and will be

answerable to them. Such is the basis of all guarantees of freedom and transparency that have been offered for these elections.

Indeed, dear citizens, for the first time in our country, those who have accepted to seek your vote will participate directly in monitoring the good and fair running of these elections.

It is true that these elections will be held under difficult circumstances. However, at the same time, you bear witness to the great efforts that are being made by the state apparatus as a whole to prepare these elections and guarantee that they are held in good conditions. I seize this opportunity to address, on behalf of all of you, a well-deserved salutation to all the civil servants who mobilized themselves, each at the level of their own responsibility, to enable the nation to express its will freely.

Dear citizens: as Algeria is preparing to enter crucial elections, I appeal to all sides concerned by this national event. In this respect, I would like first to address the civil servants: The state is strong when it adheres to the laws that it is entrusted to implement and see are respected. The state is strong when it respects the will of the people, which is an expression of that state.

The presidential elections, which concern all our people, will be held under the supervision of the Algerian society and in the presence of foreign observers who Algeria has invited in all sovereignty.

This is what makes this operation a new opportunity for the Algerian state to prove that it is a state of law and order, a powerful state through respect for the law and respect for the popular will. This is the challenge that you — the civil servants — must meet. Therefore, I expect you to make sure, with determination and loyalty, that the provisions of our electoral law are respected. It is the proper course, with which you will be contributing to the genuine success of these elections.

I also seize this opportunity to tell the ladies and gentlemen who put their names forward as candidates that I am lauding, first of all, their own decision to let the people choose. I am certain that in addition to your own legitimate ambitions, you will unite in a collective ambition with all the patriots who want these elections to be a strong basis for entrenching the democratic and pluralist track in our country.

I am also convinced that you are truly aware of the important contribution you will be providing for strengthening the national effort to get our country out of the present crisis.

By seeking the vote of the sovereign people you have indeed confirmed your desire to contribute to this important national event. By conducting your election campaign with integrity around ambitious programs, respecting all the obligations the law imposes on all candidates, and accepting tomorrow the free decision of our people, you will help multiparty democracy in our country make significant and promising steps.

I am now addressing myself to you dear citizens, you the main party and only decider in these elections that will consecrate your sovereignty: Some people in the political arena are opposing your legitimate right to express your free will. Faced with such people, each one of you is entitled to wonder whether a tangible alternative has been offered to them in lieu of these elections to overcome the difficult situation that Algeria has been living in for nearly four years now.

By carrying out your national duty, each one of you will confirm your choice between stagnation, which is the source of the impasse, and active mobilization in the service of national recovery.

Moreover, others who have risen against their people are, for their part, making criminal threats with the intention of preventing an entire nation from expressing its choices. However, these tendentious threats are being met daily by your determined and honorable response.

Indeed, dear brothers and sisters, your determination as a people with pride has enabled Algeria to combat the wanton violence that is unprecedented in the history of mankind. It is a criminal violence whose sole aim is to destroy our homeland. The Algerian people have throughout their history foiled all attempts to make them prisoners of an impasse. The best example is embodied in the glorious November revolution, which put a definite end to hesitation and calculations.

Moreover, everyone knows that the Algerian people, throughout their centuries-old history, have never been a people who surrender to threat and crime, particularly when the latter targets, in addition to the children and property of this people, the dignity of this nation and its honor.

In the face of the current challenges, the presidential elections are an opportunity to free yourselves from the attempts of obstruction and open up new prospects for all the children of this homeland.

These elections also give you the opportunity to prove once again that the spirit of November, the spirit of pride in the homeland, is still a reality deeply rooted in our nation. As far as it is concerned, the state is the state of all the Algerians and it will confront, with determination

and resolve, any attempt to harm the Algerian people and any attempt to silence their voice.

Algeria, the land of the tolerant religion of Islam, will allow all the children of Algeria who have been misled to come to their senses before it is too late. In the face of the present challenges, the presidential elections will be a means for an upsurge of genuine national recovery, for the sake of which you accepted with dignity and courage to make numerous sacrifices.

This national recovery is a recovery for making a break with the past. The elections will provide this break — a break under the shadow of being loyal to our authentic national values, which our nation has cherished throughout the ages; a break in the shadow of being loyal to the mission of our glorious revolution; a break in the shadow of promoting the democratic republican system in the service of national solidarity and social justice.

Citizens, men and women at home and abroad: I have the honor in my capacity as a head of state today to invite the electorate to participate in the presidential elections on 16 November. On this official occasion, I renew before the nation the commitment that these elections will be an opportunity for every one of you to exercise his free choice in honesty and transparency.

I also pledge, before you and before God, and on behalf of all institutions of the state, to respect your sovereign choice.

I would like to conclude my address by renewing the message that I addressed to you nearly a year ago, when I announced the recourse to the presidential elections, and say to you: Fellow citizens, you are once again called upon to make your own national destiny. Yes, brothers and sisters, you are once again called upon to make your own national destiny. Therefore, the word now is yours and you have to give priority to your sovereign will. Long live Algeria and peace; God's blessing and compassion be upon you.

Engineer Announces Candidacy for President

*LD1709231795 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Another personality announced on 17 September his intention to enter the presidential elections race. He is Latreche Moussa Benhocine. He was born in 1951 in Kerkera in the administrative district of Tamalous, Skikda Province. He is an agricultural engineer and the father of six children. He is presently the manager of an import-export company. He held several jobs in agricultural

organizations in his birthplace — Skikda Province from 1976 to 1987.

[Begin Benhocine recording] Peace of God be upon you, sons of my homeland, sons of a country which, not so long ago, was a land of peace.

People. All of you know what is happening in our homeland today. We may differ in explaining the reasons but we may not differ about our society becoming a society of those who destroy their own homes for the benefit of others. What a wretched situation this is.

People, you all know there is no way out for two brothers if they differ — except through the exercise of reason and the search for a solution by reasonable means so that they could remain within the actual balance inside the family and march along the normal course of human life. [passage omitted]

People, I am Latreche Moussa Benhocine, a son of the Algerian people, after I had suffered from the present bitter situation, I proposed that the parties in conflict take into account the interest of the entire nation. If they had, we would not have reached the state we find ourselves in today.

Therefore, I decided on 28 January 1995 to stand as a presidential candidate; I want to put forward my views, which I find to be a way out for the people who have to settle the issue. [passage omitted]

It is not right that for anyone to appoint himself as a guardian over others in the present circumstances unless he was given a mandate. The historical mandate has reached its end. History belongs to everyone. [Passage indistinct]

The majority has no right to suppress the minority and the minority does not have the right to frustrate and hamper the effort of the majority. [passage omitted]

We are Algerians who hold the reins of power. This is a reality that is recognized by Algerian people since the outbreak of the conflict. Those who hold the reins of power have decided to enter into a dialogue with the Algerian people through the holding of elections. This was announced in the speech by the head of state on 31 October 1994. We ought to hold this dialogue, agree and choose the sound path that delivers us from this conflict.

We might disagree over the ways and means to go about it but have we got [no] other alternative when we hear each day about Algerians being killed by Algerians. The application of the principle of choice within a plural framework in itself is considered a great step and the rest will inevitably follow because no one can stop the dynamics of change. [passage omitted]

Shame on us if we have forgotten our roots and the shame is greater if we must continue to bicker and kill one another, while the changing world comes and goes and leaves us behind.

For this I call upon all of you to shoulder your responsibility and make a choice, each one for himself and then for his homeland. As to the program, without exaggeration it remains linked to the international commitments. Therefore, we have to draw up a plan to come out of this crisis with the least cost while at the same time we must work for getting the largest participation in the economic decisionmaking with all what this may entail, as soon as possible. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Workers Union Considers Fielding Candidate

LD1509175595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 SEP 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Executive Committee of the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA] reaffirmed at its extraordinary session that it does not rule out the possibility of submitting a candidate for the upcoming presidential elections. It said in its final declaration, which was ratified late last night, that if the situation remains as it is now with regard to nominations, the UGTA will decide at a suitable time on the submission of a candidate for the presidency of the Republic.

Within this framework the National Executive Committee has entrusted the National Secretariat with the task of implementing this decision, according to the declaration. The declaration reaffirmed that this decision will not be final until after a detailed discussion of the development of events during the coming days.

At the organizational level, the National Executive Committee, which is composed of about 200 members, decided to submit to the National Disciplinary Committee the dossiers of eight UGTA members who are exploiting their positions within the National Transitional Council. Meanwhile, the National Executive Committee has adopted all the social and economic requests issued by the national conference of the trade union's cadres that was held on 13 September.

Presidential Candidate Benhadid Assassinated

LD1709191295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services has said that Mr. Abdelmadjid Benhadid, the chairman of the Algerian Association for the Promotion of Sports, Culture and International Youth Exchanges

[and a presidential candidate representing the Algerian National Association for the Promotion of Sport, Cultural and Scientific Activities and International Exchanges] was assassinated at about 0915 [0815 GMT] today by three armed terrorists on the hills of the *Cite des 850 Logements* housing development in Boudouaou, in Boumerdes Province.

The victim was 48 years old and had two children.

Human Rights Activist Killed in Algiers Suburb

LD1609144495 *Paris Radio France International*
in French 1230 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been another victim of political violence in Algeria. Abdelhafid Mekdoub, trade unionist and member of the steering committee of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights, was murdered 14 September in Baraki, a suburb of Algiers. The news was reported in two daily newspapers, LE MATIN and LA TRIBUNE. Abdelhafid Mekdoub, who had already survived two previous assassination attempts, was shot dead while driving. His wife and one of his children were also in the car.

Egypt

'Arafat Arrives in Cairo, Meets President Mubarak

NC1609112495 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1105 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this afternoon. 'Arafat arrived in Cairo earlier today.

On the Egyptian side the meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. On the Palestinian side were Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, official in charge of information in the Palestinian Authority; Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President 'Arafat; and Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

Musa on Mubarak-'Arafat Talks

NC1609195195 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1929 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat have discussed the progress of the Palestinian-Israeli talks. He noted that they also reviewed the possible outcome of the negotiations regarding the points on which no agreement has been reached, particularly the issue of the city of Hebron. In a statement to

AL-AHRAM published in Sunday's edition, Musa said that President Mubarak and 'Arafat have agreed that the city of Hebron, where 412 Palestinians live, must be included in the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank like other Palestinian towns. He pointed out that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Washington to attend the signing ceremony of the second stage of the self-rule agreement depends on the results of the talks between 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Musa: Results of Palestinian-Israeli Talks Unknown

NC1709150195 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1410 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—Egypt is following with great interest the current negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis under Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated. He added that the results of the talks are not yet known and that Egypt is in constant contact with the negotiating parties. He said the final outcome is still not known. With respect to initialing the agreement in Cairo, Musa said no arrangements have been made in view of the fact that no results have been reached yet.

French Foreign Minister de Charette Arrives

NC1709162595 *Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio*
Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette arrived in Cairo today on a two-day visit to Egypt during which he will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

The official talks between Egypt and France will start at the Foreign Ministry this evening. The Egyptian side will be chaired by 'Amr Musa and the French by Herve de Charette. Talks will focus on the Middle East peace process, ways to propel the negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track, how to remove obstacles in the way of these negotiations, and the European role in the peace process.

The talks will also focus on the situation in Bosnia in light of recent developments, as well as Egyptian-French coordination regarding the coming meeting in Barcelona in November which will discuss the future of cooperation between the EU and the countries in the region, in addition to discussing bilateral relations.

Meets With Mubarak

*NC1809092795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0904 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 18 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning received French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and French Ambassador in Cairo Patrick Leclercq.

Japanese Prime Minister Murayama, Musa Meet

*NC1509180895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1720 GMT 15 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this evening visited Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama at his place of residence in Cairo. The latter is currently visiting Egypt.

The foreign minister stated that he and Mr. Murayama discussed various aspects of the situation in the Middle East region, including the peace process and the situation in the Gulf. He said they reviewed Japan's role in the peace process and its extensive interest in stability in the Middle East region.

'Amr Musa said he explained the current situation in the region to the Japanese prime minister, as well as future expectations. He also reviewed a number of points concerning Bosnia and Egypt's stance on developments there.

The foreign minister added that they discussed ideas proposed on the international level to increase the number of permanent members of the Security Council, one of which would be Japan.

They also discussed the international scene in general and bilateral relations between Egypt and Japan as well as ways to bolster them in various sectors, particularly in the areas of politics, economics, investment, and tourism.

Murayama Meets Sidqi

*OW1609045995 Tokyo KYODO in English
2343 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Sept. 16 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama renewed Tokyo's commitment Friday [15 September] to the Middle East peace process in separate meetings with two Egyptian leaders, his spokesman said.

Murayama, in Cairo on the second leg of his eight-day Mideast trip, met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and later with Prime Minister Atif Sidqi. Musa told the visitor he sees a 50 percent chance of a

comprehensive peace settlement being achieved, noting that there will be no retreat in the peace process, the spokesman said. Murayama was quoted as saying Japan will cooperate in the move as far as possible.

Referring to Iraq's shaky political situation, Musa said caution is needed in coping with it because it could vitally affect the entire Persian Gulf situation, the spokesman said. "It is important for countries around Iraq to act on the basis of consensus," Musa was quoted as telling Murayama.

Iraq faces mounting economic difficulties due to United Nations sanctions imposed in the wake of its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, and President Saddam Husayn's leadership has reportedly been on the wane, with one of his top aides fleeing to Jordan recently. Murayama and Sidqi, meeting later, witnessed the signing of agreements on three Japanese grants totaling 795 million yen to Egypt.

Murayama arrived in Cairo on Thursday from Saudi Arabia. He will visit Syria on Saturday, Israel on Sunday and Jordan on Monday before returning home Tuesday.

Daily Urges Finding Solution to Hebron Problem

*NC1709212695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2126 GMT 17 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—The AL-AHRAM newspaper calls on the Israeli party to show courage and make a decision to find a solution to the problem of Hebron, which has consistently been a difficult obstacle in the way of negotiations. The paper says that it is not reasonable that the future of peace and of the entire region should hinge on the will of 450 Jewish settlers who live in the city amidst 100,000 Palestinians, who are the original population of the city.

In an editorial published in Monday's edition, AL-AHRAM says that it is in the interest of both parties to achieve peace, particularly since they have reached the point of no return in the peace process. It says that failure is not permissible in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations for several reasons that concern each party in addition to regional and international considerations.

AL-AHRAM says that the conflict between the two parties cannot continue indefinitely and stresses that it can only be settled through direct negotiations in the interest of the two parties. The paper continues: Israel did not succeed in obtaining security under the conflict despite its military superiority, and the Palestinians obtained nothing by relying on struggle without negotiations as a means to obtain their rights.

Commission To Prepare Charges List in POW Case
NC1609170495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1620 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—The Egyptian National Commission on Fact-Finding and Defending the Rights of Egyptian POW's has decided to prepare an international memorandum on legal charges concerning the war crimes committed against Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 wars in accordance with the provisions of the third Geneva Convention. The commission will also compile a portfolio containing the signed confessions of the Israeli side as well as the testimonies of Egyptian eyewitnesses.

At a meeting in the Center of Legal Studies and Information on Human Rights today, the commission decided to move in two directions: The first will prepare for an international popular trial before international judges and lawyers known for their neutrality and honesty, who have experience in that type of trial. The second direction will involve a demand for the international community and the competent UN committees to hold an international criminal trial of the war crimes the Israeli army committed against the Egyptian POW's.

The commission includes a number of professors of international law at Egyptian universities, experts, and prominent lawyers who specialize in that field.

Suit Filed Against Peres, Sultan for POW's
NC1609062895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0546 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—The opposition newspaper AL-WAFD reports today that on 10 October the Damanhur Court of First Instance in al-Buwayrah Governorate, in the Western Delta, will hear a new legal case against Israel for killing Egyptian prisoners in the 1956 and 1967 wars.

The paper says the suit has been filed by a female lawyer, Hanan al-Shami, in the city of Damanhur against Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Israeli Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan. The lawyer has demanded \$1 billion in compensation for material and moral damage inflicted on the Egyptian people.

The lawyer said she has prosecution witnesses among prisoners who escaped the defendants. She said the witnesses are willing to testify that the Israeli officers killed hundreds of prisoners after forcing them to dig their own graves with their bare hands.

Government Paper Urges Recall of Tel Aviv Envoy
NC1709184995 Paris AFP in English
1828 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Sept 17 (AFP) — A government weekly demanded the recall of the ambassador to Tel Aviv Sunday [17 September] for adopting what it termed a "pusillanimous" stand on Israel's killing of Egyptian prisoners in 1956 and 1967 wars.

Muhammad Basyuni has reacted "with great pusillanimity and that's why we demand his recall, not to protest against Israel's attitude but against his," it said. The weekly said the ambassador had criticized Egyptian newspaper reports on the killings, instead of putting Israel to shame.

Since reports emerged in Israel last month that hundreds of Egyptian soldiers had been killed after surrendering, Israel has said it may be willing to pay compensation but denied any state responsibility. It has also refused to prosecute those responsible, pointing out that, under Israeli law, soldiers guilty of war crimes can not be prosecuted more than 20 years after the events.

Muslim Brotherhood Trial Opens in Cairo
NC1609140295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1300 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—The Supreme Military Court in Egypt held its first session today to try the case of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood [MB]. It involves 49 defendants, one of them who is at large in the United States.

The judge read out the indictment which stated that the first through the 42d defendants were involved in preparing and setting up the organizational structure of the dissolved MB nationwide, in violation of the law, to urge the obstruction of the law and the Constitution.

The indictment also stated that the defendants held secret meetings and seminars at which they explained their principles, which are hostile to the Constitution and the law, and recruited new cadres, having convinced them of the group's principles.

The judge said in the indictment that the first through the 46th defendants took charge of the group's leadership through setting up what they called "the organization's shura council". The council is charged with giving instructions and providing financial resources to the group.

The court accused the 49th defendant of joining a group founded in violation of the law, while being aware of its objectives.

Further on Trial

*NC1609150195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1430 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—At the end of a session that extended for two and half hours, interrupted by a brief recess, the president of the court decided to defer the case until 30 September. He did so after a defense request to read the files and prepare a statement.

The president's decision included subpoenas for defendant Mahmud Hasan al-Dib, who was absent today, and for witnesses to attend the next session. A remand was renewed for the detained defendants. The defense council, made up of some 50 lawyers including two Christians, demanded the release of all the defendants since they pose no threat to security.

The lawyers said they filed a motion with the administrative court disputing the president's decree to refer the trial to a military tribunal. They requested that the defendants who are suffering from certain diseases be taken to a hospital for treatment.

The case involves 27 defendants who are remanded in custody and 21 defendants who have been released and are thought to play a vital role in the case. This is the first trial of the Muslim Brothers since they were banned in 1954.

Evidence Cited of Sudan's Involvement in Mubarak Attack

*NC1509205595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1950 GMT 15 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Egypt has obtained important information about the Sudanese regime's involvement in the evil attempt to assassinate President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

The evidence proves that Sudanese security officials provided facilities for the departure and reentry of the terrorist group's members, including the planners and perpetrators of the crime, via Khartoum International Airport. They provided them with official letters that made their passage through the airport and their dealings with the airline on which they flew easier.

The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports in Saturday's issue that Egypt has obtained official documents bearing the names of the terrorists involved in the crime, notably someone called Husayn Ahmad Shumayt. The documents are in the form of letters recommending that these people be assisted in entering Khartoum Airport on their arrival from Pakistan and their later departure to Ethiopia on a Sudanese flight shortly before the assassination attempt was carried out. The

recommended assistance included helping the members of the group to board the flight without completing the normal routine procedures. One such letter of recommendation was addressed to the passports director at the airport and was labelled "top secret."

AL-AHRAM added that terrorist Husayn Shumayt was using two passports, a Sudanese passport stating that his place of residence was Khartoum and giving an accurate physical description of him, and a forged Ethiopian passport.

The information obtained by the newspaper says that a letter was addressed to the Sudan Airways Company asking that two seats be reserved on its next flight from Addis Ababa to Khartoum, which was scheduled to take off at midday on 26 June, a few hours after the assassination was due to take place. The reservation specified the names of the two suspects whose return had been planned in this way. They were Husayn Ahmad Shumayt, alias Siraj Fathi, and Sharif 'Abd-al-Rahman, alias 'Umar. The letter asked that these two people be given adjoining seats on the plane.

AL-AHRAM added that the Ethiopian authorities succeeded in obtaining a list of the passengers on this flight to Khartoum which left Addis Ababa shortly before Ethiopia took measures to seal its borders and carefully screen all travelers. It has been proven that the terrorist Shumayt boarded the flight and was actually at the airport when President Mubarak was making preparations to return to Cairo. It has been learned that the other terrorist, Sharif 'Abd-al-Rahman, "'Umar," was unable to leave Addis Ababa for Khartoum because he was wounded in an exchange of gunfire at the site of the incident. Later he was killed with two of his assistants inside their hideout in the Ethiopian capital. The original plan called for the return of the remaining members of the group to Sudan by various routes.

In a related development, AL-AHRAM reported that Egypt has stepped up its requests to foreign countries to extradite terrorists residing on their territories. The paper noted that these efforts have made much progress. Interpol personnel in those countries are playing a major role in mounting surveillance on 23 terrorists against whom convictions have been handed down by Egyptian courts.

Musa Views 'Some Positive Indications' in Bosnia

*NC1709152295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1335 GMT 17 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that there are some positive indications regarding the

situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a result of recent developments there.

Musa said that what matters is to complete the withdrawal of all Serbian weapons from around Sarajevo to the agreed-upon distance of 20 km, lift the siege placed on the capital by the Serbian forces, and make the parties accept the proposed peace plan. In answer to reporters' questions, Musa added that Egypt is following developments in Bosnia with great interest and in great detail and that the Islamic countries insist on the need to realize a peace that preserves the Bosnian state's independence and sovereignty.

Musa pointed out that Ambassador Munir Zahran, Egypt's permanent representative at the UN European headquarters, attended the Kuala Lumpur meeting of Islamic countries on Bosnia. He presented a comprehensive report in which he stressed the Islamic countries' interest in and insistence on following up on the situation in Bosnia and supporting it.

The Egyptian foreign minister warned that the Islamic states are following the peace process taking place there in anticipation of and in preparation for a possible failure.

Statement on Women's Conference Working Program

NC1509134395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1140 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beijing, 15 Sep (MENA)—Egypt has stated that it approaches the recommendations contained in the working program issued by the Fourth World Conference on Women, currently convening in Beijing, from the perspective of full respect for national sovereignty and various religious and moral values. Egypt's approach follows its commitment to the texts of the Constitution and principles of law guided by the tolerant religious doctrines.

Egypt confirmed in a statement delivered during the final session of the conference today by Ambassador Layla 'Amarah, member of the official Egyptian delegation, that addressing the paragraphs on the rights of inheritance takes place within the framework of full respect for the principles of inheritance stipulated in the Islamic shari'ah and commitment to the regulations of the law and the constitution.

The following is Egypt's statement responding to the working program issued by the conference:

The participation of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the Fourth World Conference on Women reflects its conviction to raising the status of the affairs of women. This participation is also an extension of Egypt's

participation in the past three women's conferences, in addition to its hosting of one of the most important international conferences, the International Conference on Population and Development.

Egypt's delegation wishes to have on record its understanding of the texts appearing in the working program of the Fourth World Conference on Women regarding sexual and reproductive relations. This understanding is that these relations take place within the framework of the marital and family bonds, since they are the basic cell of society. Egypt will address the recommendations contained in the working program with full respect for national sovereign rights and the various religious and moral values, out of its commitment to the texts of the constitution and the principles of the law guided by our tolerant divine doctrines.

Egypt's delegation wishes to have on record the fact that its reading and understanding of the text of the paragraphs regarding the rights of inheritance in the working program, in particular Paragraph 274 D, is based on full respect for the principles of inheritance in the Islamic shari'ah and commitment to the regulations of the law and Constitution.

Libya

Envoy on Halting Palestinian Expulsions

NC1509112495 Paris AFP in English
0927 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Sept 15 (AFP)—Libya is expelling foreign workers because of its economic crisis but the Palestinian exodus could be called off on humanitarian grounds, the Libyan ambassador here said Friday [15 September].

'Ashur al-Furtas said the expulsions since early this month were aimed at "restoring some order to the foreign workforce in a country which is going through an economic crisis."

Libya has been under UN sanctions since 1992 in connection with the Lockerbie plane bombing four years earlier.

"This large foreign workforce represents a burden because they buy state-subsidized products at low prices and export them to their own country," he explained to the French-language L'ORIENT-LE JOUR.

"Libyans can't find certain products on the market any more and are hit by shortages, especially in medicine," the ambassador said.

Libyan leader Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi's decision to expel Palestinians was political — to show what Tripoli

sees as the failure of the PLO's autonomy deal with Israel — but it could be rescinded "for humanitarian reasons."

Al-Furtas said the 480 Palestinians who had returned to Lebanon could be allowed back to Libya, "depending on arrangements to settle the presence of the foreign workforce."

Beirut, fearing a mass influx, has imposed visa restrictions even on Palestinians from Libya with Lebanese travel documents.

But travellers reaching the Egyptian town of al-Sallum on the border with Libya, a main exit route for expelled Arab workers, said Thursday that the mass expulsion of Palestinians appeared to have been suspended.

The expulsions triggered widespread criticism from Arab countries and the UN agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency]. PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat denounced al-Qadhafi's decision as a crime.

Egypt has been mediating with Libya to exempt its 30,000 Palestinians, many of whom have nowhere else to go.

Morocco

King Interviewed on Foreign, Domestic Affairs

LD1709225695 Paris TV-5 Television Network
in French 1635 GMT 17 Sep 95

[Interview with King Hassan II by correspondent Philippe Dessaint in the Royal Palace in Rabat; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Dessaint] Your Majesty, good evening and thank you for granting the international channel, TV5, this interview.

This is a long-awaited interview, given that our channel is about to launch its Moroccan fortnight. It is also eagerly awaited because little has been heard from you in the past few months. I am going to suggest that we tackle two broad subjects: First, we will speak about Morocco's international profile: its relations with France and with Europe; and we will also speak about Bosnia, Africa, and other international topics. Then, if you are willing, we can focus on Morocco, its economic, political, and social affairs, and you can tell us how you see this country's future. First of all, however, before questioning the Moroccan head of state, I will ask you, in your capacity as Commander of the Faithful, as spiritual leader: When you observe that a certain number of countries in the world — and France in particular — are experiencing attacks, virtually on a daily basis, and are being targeted by what is increasingly being

termed Islamist terrorism, what is your reaction to the association of these two words?

[Hassan] It is an association that I do not accept, and which I categorically reject, for if Islam had ever been what it is being described as nowadays, and the way it is being portrayed — if it were really that way — then this would have been continuing for centuries. But, as I have repeated many times, this phenomenon has only made its appearance in the past 10 years. It is a political phenomenon. The attacks are political, not religious. Who is behind them? We will find out one day. But... We will, no doubt, find that those who are involved in these attacks, although they say they are Muslims, do not know anything about their religion. I am sure of that. I am certain that most of them — or some of them — could not properly recite 10 or so verses of the Koran. We have had personal confirmation of this in 1994. So, I categorically reject this association of ideas and this association of words: Islamic attack.

[Dessaint] Sir, do you not fear that, at the level of international awareness and approach — international opinion — there might nonetheless, be a confusion of the two issues, Islam and this kind of behavior?

[Hassan] Unfortunately, the confusion has already taken place, because what is now happening in France has happened before. It has occurred elsewhere. So the confusion is there. But what I fear most, and what pains me most deeply, is the state of mind of all the Muslims who live in France. Their anxiety — the anxiety as they wonder, as we ourselves, or are they trying to turn us into something we are not? This is irrespective of their nationality, whether they are Algerians, Moroccans, Tunisians, or Africans from south of the Sahara. I feel their pain — and I am sure they themselves suffer each time they meet their French friends, those of French origin from French families, because they themselves do not understand what is happening to them.

[Dessaint] Is there, ultimately, a message that can be got over to those who set off bombs and who distort the meaning of the Koran?

[Hassan] First, all those who interpret or wish to explain the Koran should be aware that there is a commandment in the Koran that is inescapable. It is this: Only those who have mastered the Arabic language and have a certain theological knowledge may interpret the Koran, comment upon it, and formulate the commands and orders that proceed from it. It is not given to just anybody to interpret the word of God.

[Dessaint] In the course of this interview we will, naturally, speak about Morocco's role in the world before looking more closely at the country itself. Let

us return to a recent event: The recent visit to Morocco by French President Jacques Chirac. I would ask you to tell us — apart from the friendship between the two of you — what plans you have regarding France, what you expect from bilateral cooperation?

[Hassan] Well, as with all things, today is the child of yesterday and tomorrow is the child of today. God has so willed it that two heirs to two companions [De Gaulle, Mohamed V], two men who respected one another, who took each other's hand in friendship, who worked hand in hand to liberate a continent — God so willed it that those two men were succeeded by two other men. It is an opportune combination that cannot last for very long. But I believe that both President Chirac and myself have seized the opportunity, and we want our countries to benefit from it.

[Dessaint] In what way — economically? In obtaining support for an initiative in the direction of Europe? Is cooperation between Paris and Rabat today the same as that that has prevailed for many years? Is there something new to be created, which you are hoping for today that Jacques Chirac, president of the French Republic? [question as heard]

[Hassan] There is something we hope for, because — as you know, I am very modest in my approach, regardless of the close relations I may have with someone — it is in my nature to be modest and restrained. But the president himself, quite spontaneously, has said that France will be Morocco's advocate within the EU. Not a negative advocate, but a positive advocate, by attempting to explain what Morocco is, what its identity and specificity is, through an intimate knowledge of Morocco — particularly coming from a country like France, which is one of the central pillars of Europe.

[Dessaint] In a few weeks you will be going to Paris. What does this visit mean, and what do you hope to do, say, and obtain there?

[Hassan] First, I want to see Paris again, as I have not been there for a long time. Then I am going to meet a new team of officials, not just the president. Other appointments have been written into my schedule. I think this visit will be a follow-up on a personal level — because there is continuity in our present relations — but it will be a very personal follow-up, between the president and myself, of his visit to Morocco. That is important.

[Dessaint] It might be said — to put it in a past context — that relations between Rabat and Paris are better today than they have been during an earlier period?

[Hassan] It will be straying from the truth to assert the opposite.

[Dessaint] You do mention Europe. Morocco is watching the EU. You have launched a new procedure to join it. What are you expecting from this? Are you hoping that this will lead Europe to take this seriously into account?

[Hassan] It is a fact that Europe currently has two choices. We know that there are two schools of thought in Europe. One is for expansion toward the East and the other is for expansion toward the South. I personally think that the two approaches are not incompatible. The problem is where the priority lies. I think that there is some work for everybody here, because Europe could not be looking exclusively toward the East, it could not be looking toward the South exclusively either. It needs to be a global Europe, because if we consider that this Europe is going to be made round a core of concentric circles, then the more your countries are in a European Europe, the more this will help the formation of a hard core. This can be fatal.

[Dessaint] What kind of agenda do you give yourselves to join the EU? Brussels' first reactions, one may say, are not terribly optimistic for you.

[Hassan] You know, Brussels' first reactions should not be seen like that. One should not forget that there is a treaty concerning fishing with Europe that is poisoning the air. Unfortunately, this treaty is unfolding between Morocco and Europe. However, on the ground, the conflict is between two countries: Morocco and Spain.

[Dessaint] Bearing in mind that Spain is currently chairing the EU.

[Hassan] It is chairing the Union and a member of it. It has got the veto right and is ethically counting on a minimum of solidarity. All this does not help the situation, so to speak. As you know, I belong to a school that advocates dialogue; I have always supported dialogue. I think that we will reach a solution.

[Dessaint] Brussels has been calling upon Morocco to show, I quote, more flexibility, particularly regarding this issue. Do you think that Rabat's position may develop [words indistinct]?

[Hassan] Yes, but we will require in exchange that Europe makes an effort of imagination. If they want us to be more flexible, we will ask Europe to be more imaginative in exchange, because Morocco... Europe had or will have treaties with Mediterranean countries, but Mediterranean countries are not the same. There will not be a treaty for all. Each one has its own personality. Where I am asking Europe to be more imaginative is in drawing a treaty in respect of Morocco's size and what it represents in the region. This is what I mean by

imagination. In exchange, we are ready to be flexible. I am for flexibility not for rigidity.

[Dessaint] So you are looking toward Europe, but also toward the United States that you have just visited. Are you not expecting a sign or stronger support from the United States?

[Hassan] The U.S. political system is different from the European system in the sense that in every European country you will find at least a Cooperation Ministry or something similar. This does not exist in the United States. It has no cells in charge of bilateral cooperation with other countries. All it can do is encourage private capitals and encourage a certain movement of wealth and property.

So what I am expecting from the United States is important, but one should be patient and follow the situation closely.

[Dessaint] You have mentioned special bilateral relations with Paris, looking up toward Europe and the United States. Do you think all these when taken together are compatible? Is there a search for a special partner? Can one in fact work so closely with so many partners?

[Hassan] Any reasonably ambitious country seeks to be universal and I do not wish to deprive my country of this universality. This is how I see things.

[Dessaint] Morocco is also integrated into the African continent. Can one expect for instance a rapprochement in the context of the OAU? Is Morocco committed to this African identity?

[Hassan] Morocco has never been and will never be an apostate. We belong to a family called Africa and with which we have more than secular links. Our links have always been based on religious and spiritual exchanges above all.

The events were such that we are no longer a member of the OAU, but that does not mean that we are not a member of the African family. Our exchanges and visits have never been more frequent than since we left the OAU. We are seeing more Africans and we are visiting Africa more frequently. As far as I am concerned, the OAU is just one extra element in the inter-African ties. There is no need to go to the Africa Hall [OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa] in order to meet one another. [passage omitted]

[Dessaint] I would like to look at two issues in which Moroccan diplomatic initiatives have been — are — important. First, the situation in Bosnia. As chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, what is your view on the both the plight of Bosnian Muslims and

on the role now being played by Moroccan diplomacy within the context of the Islamic Conference?

[Hassan] I will try to simplify by taking an example that is not exactly... I do not want to draw parallels — but, when the Lebanese war broke out, the Lebanese community consisted of Muslims and Christians. The entire international Christian community threw itself behind the Christians. That does not mean that it opposed the central authority of the Lebanese state, nor that it opposed the Muslims, who outnumber the Christians. But, from the Vatican to the Orthodox church, to all the different Christian churches in the United States, it sympathized [with the Lebanese Christians]. Yet nobody made the slightest criticism of this.

That is, to some extent, what is happening with regard to Yugoslavia. We are not taking one side against another. But we cannot help feeling for the majority of Bosnians who are Muslim. Our heart goes out to them, just as the Christians' hearts went out to the Christians in Lebanon — although the similarity stops there.

On the political level, it is essential that this world, which is changing, which is insecure — which troubles us [sentence as heard]. It troubles us because a great many things are beyond the control of a great many people these days.

[Dessaint] You are, however...

[Hassan, interrupting] I do not wish to make a judgment, but in a large part of the world, many things are beyond the control of many people.

[Dessaint] The attitude — the new attitude — of the international community, with its determination to be firm on the ground in Bosnia — does this seem to you to offer an appropriate response to the situation?

[Hassan] I was just coming to that. The fact that I am not optimistic regarding the development of... This means that we have to stick to principles. Among those principles is the respect for the territorial integrity of states. Now, Bosnia is a recognized member of the United Nations, with its own status, its own flag, and borders that are recognized and ratified. The second principle is that territory won by force must not be granted legitimacy. If we keep to these two principles, I think that we can try to escape from this historical trap. This part of Europe has always been a volcano. It has always been, let us say, a problem area. I do not think it can be solved in a short time.

Ultimately, it is crucial not to think of this as a religious war. It is an ethnic war. I know Europeans do not like using that word, as they feel that tribalism is a form of

underdevelopment. But it is nothing less than a tribal war.

[Dessaint] There is another very important issue — the peace in the Middle East — in which you and Morocco played a significant role. You have frequently received Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli leaders. Does it seem to you that, after the optimism that emerged following the famous handshake of 13 September 1993, in Washington, the reconciliation process is taking time to finally become a reality? Attacks are being carried out. Are you still optimistic about a general reconciliation between Israel and the Arab world?

[Hassan] For me, the existence of a willingness for reconciliation is more than an impression, it is a feeling. As far as I am concerned, the determination for reconciliation overrides the determination for peace, because peace without reconciliation is not peace. There is a genuine determination for peace.

Present generations are different from past generations. All these intellectual elites, whether they are Israeli, Egyptian, Syrian, Iraqi, or Jordanian in the region, understand that the world of the 21st century is different from the world of the early 20th century. They aspire to something different.

Like in all negotiations, there are setbacks. Unfortunately, it is like a play without a prompter. The spectators must thus be patient and wait for the show to go on! [passage omitted]

[Dessaint] I was saying that you played a significant role in this dialogue and reconciliation. Your relations with Israel are good. What is in fact the obstacle for an exchange of ambassadors today? Is it because you would like to remain an interlocutor accepted by both sides?

[Hassan] The decision in fact depends on Morocco. We think that Israel having a bureau here and Morocco having a bureau in Gaza and in Tel Aviv amounts to a diplomatic recognition, only the word changes.

The Israelis are not asking for an exchange of ambassadors although they would like to do so. I hope that this will happen one day. But again one should take into account the developments and wait and see. [passage omitted]

[Dessaint] We would like to talk now about Morocco, but before that there is another matter to discuss. You do not express yourself publicly on the situation in Algeria. I would like to put the question to you in different terms. Do you not fear today that the development of Morocco might be hindered in terms of investments by

the uncertainties that are characterizing the region? Is there such an obstacle in this region of the world?

[Hassan] We obviously feel the consequences of what is happening in Algeria, whether at the level of tourism or capital movement, but we have to live with it.

[Dessaint] When one talks about this state of affairs that one might call Islamism, and which some other countries of the region are experiencing, how come that the situation is different in Morocco. Is it because the economic situation is different or because you are the Commander of the Faithful, a spiritual leader, or because the Moroccan people are different, or because of all these things together? Why has Morocco not been destabilized like other countries?

[Hassan] We do not have Islamists, we have fundamentalists like elsewhere.

[Dessaint] But you know that the terminology is the same outside Morocco?

[Hassan] In reality, the Moroccan citizen is fundamentalist and has always been. We have had crises of fundamentalism throughout our history. I would even say that they have been cyclical since 1200. The ruling dynasties solved this problem themselves because they exercised both the spiritual and secular power. [passage omitted]

I have fundamentalists, but what I ask them is to be reasonably fundamentalist as were some of our ancestors; some of my ancestors — kings of Morocco — were fundamentalist in a friendly way. This violent form of fundamentalism, which resorts to murder causing social exclusion and social break up, does not exist and never existed here at home, and we hope it will never exist.

[Dessaint] You do not think that it might threaten your kingdom Majesty?

[Hassan] In the form or the various forms of which we know it, no. [passage omitted]

[Dessaint] A question, sir, which has caused polemics: It concerns human rights. Many things have happened, and this is affirmed by [human rights] organizations. As far as this thorny file is concerned, do you feel that you have finally gone all the way, in other words, that a situation is now reached that gives cause for satisfaction, or are there other things, objectives you have set?

[Hassan] One can say that one has gone all the way in order to discharge the liability of the past. Concerning this point, we have indeed gone all the way. But to mention the future, to know whether we will be going further ahead, I think that if human rights are measured against the existence of civic virtue, the coexistence of

citizens, well, then there is no end. This could be further improved; it should be a quest for every day. But, again, regarding the past, I think that we have gone all the way, we have discharged the liabilities of the past.

[Dessaint] Is it an irreversible process?

[Hassan] What?

[Dessaint] Is it an irreversible process?

[Hassan] Well, there are things that are irreversible. [passage omitted]

[Dessaint] There is something, sir, on which your comment is very much expected: It is the Sahara issue. What point has the plan for a referendum reached, and does one envisage rather a sort of association with a strong autonomy for Saharans? What is your answer to these two questions?

[Hassan] It was the OAU that worked out the first peace plan upon which the United Nations had based its own peace plan. The question [of the referendum] calls for just one of two answers: Do you want to be a Moroccan citizen? Do you want independence? So, the only question that remains is: If they want to be Moroccans then what will we be able to do for them. I say that nothing can be promised in advance. First, say that you want to be Moroccans, and show trust.

[Dessaint] When is this question going to be posed then?

[Hassan] I wish only one thing, that this question is posed as soon as possible. But I do not have the impression that on the other side they are in a hurry as much as we are. [passage omitted]

Final Results of Referendum on Amendment Reported

LD1609143395 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We start the bulletin with the results of the referendum on the constitutional amendment that took place yesterday in our country. The details are with Taieb Alami:

[Alami] The Moroccan people responded to the invitation of His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, by heavily taking part and unanimously voting in the referendum on submitting the draft financial bill to the House of Representatives in the April session instead of the October session each year. [passage omitted]

According to the final results at the kingdom's level, as announced by the Interior Ministry, this constitutional amendment was approved by a majority of 99.60 percent.

The level of participation in this popular consultation reached 70.23 percent.

The number of voters reached 8,155,359 of the total of 11,613,119 registered people.

As for the number of the votes casted, it reached 8,113,160, while the number of spoiled votes reached 42,199.

The number of voters who voted "yes" reached 8,080,866.

The number of those who voted "no" reached 32,294, i.e., 0.40 percent. [passage omitted]

'Overwhelming Majority' Approve

LD1609134995 Rabat MAP in English 1245 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Sep. 16 (MAP) — The Moroccan people approved by an overwhelming majority of 99.23 pc [percent] a constitutional amendment at a referendum held Friday [15 September].

Under the amendment, the appropriation bill will be examined and voted by the parliament during the spring session instead of the fall session. Only 32,294 voters casted 'no', ie. 0.40 pc during the referendum where the participation rate stood at 70.23 pc.

Almost all Moroccan political parties, including three major opposition parties, namely the Istiqlal Party (nationalist), the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP/ leftist) and the Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS/ former Communist Party) had called their militants to vote for the amendment.

The organization of the referendum was announced by King Hassan II in a speech he addressed to the nation last August 20. The sovereign had then explained that the amendment was proposed so that the results of the agricultural campaign be taken into account when drawing the state budget.

The drought that severely hit Morocco this year made it difficult to carry out many projects and compelled the government to drill new resources for the rural world. The sovereign had affirmed that the proposed amendment is a basic amendment that will allow for a better management of the country's financial and economic situation.

Sudan

Official on Egyptian Diplomatic Mission Reduction

AB1709175695 Paris AFP in English
1725 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Sept 17 (AFP) — Sudan on Sunday [17 September] played down Egypt's decision to scale down diplomatic ties with Khartoum but held out the possibility of pulling its ambassador from Cairo in retaliation.

Egypt said last week it would not reappoint an ambassador to Khartoum in reaction to Sudan's alleged backing of a failed attempt on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa on June 26.

"Sudan, which will not be affected by the reduction of Egypt's diplomatic mission in Khartoum, has the option and the right to take similar action," said Ahmad Ibrahim, a legal advisor to President 'Umar al-Bashir. He also said that Sudan did not want "to take hostile action against Egypt out of respect for its ties with its Egyptian brothers and despite the escalation mounted by the Egyptian Government." Ties between the two countries have gone from bad to worse since the attack on Mubarak, but Sudan denies any involvement.

Authorities Seize Egyptian Ministry's House

NC1709141695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1250 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—The Sudanese authorities have seized the Egyptian Irrigation Ministry's rest house in the city of Danaqilah in northern Sudan and expelled the resident Egyptian irrigation engineer. They also seized the rest house's wireless station and its furniture in violation of the Nile Water Agreement between Egypt and Sudan.

The new measure, taken yesterday, is a Sudanese escalation against Egyptian workers and interests in Sudan.

Earlier, the Sudanese authorities seized 24 rest houses from the Egyptian Irrigation Ministry, including the rest house of the Egyptian irrigation under secretary, who has been staying in a hotel in Khartoum for more than a year at the expense of the Egyptian Government. The authorities had seized his rest house on the Blue Nile in Khartoum.

Seizure of rest houses belonging to Egyptian irrigation officials began in May. Families of workers, including women and children, were thrown into the street. They were not allowed to remove their possessions and personal effects from the rest houses, which were turned — except for the under secretary's rest house — into

offices for Sudanese security agencies and rest houses for influential people.

Islamic Leader Attacks Government, NIF

NC1509161595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1440 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 15 Sep (MENA)—The imam and preacher of the renowned al-Hayy al-Diblumasi mosque in Khartoum has assailed the National Islamic Front (NIF), which controls the government in Sudan under the pretext of applying Islamic shari'ah. He stressed that the NIF is to blame for the current internal fragmentation and foreign blockade from which Sudan is suffering.

In his Friday sermon, Dr. 'Isam al-Bashir denounced the Arab and Islamic Popular Conference, which is led by Dr. Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, for issuing an appeal for unity to the brothers in Algeria two days ago. He said the Conference would have done better if it had directed the appeal to the Sudanese Government during these times of sedition in Sudan.

He stressed the need for dialogue between the government and former Sudanese political and religious leaders. Noting that the government is refusing to engage in such a dialogue, he said that Sudan's modern history will not be written without reference to the role and services of those leaders. He said the government must recognize those services instead of rushing toward dialogue with the rebels [in the south].

Al-Bashir emphasized the need to respect honor and private ownership and not to kill people unlawfully. He denounced the killing of innocent people in the streets by the security forces under the pretext of maintaining order. Priority should be given to protecting the country from sedition and to applying God's shari'ah as agreed upon by all the Sudanese, he said. He pointed out that the shari'ah the Sudanese people want is not hollow slogans raised by a certain group. It is different from the applied economic policies and methods, which people make and may differ over, he said.

He said Islamic shari'ah is innocent of the charges that say Sudan is being blockaded because it is being applied. He noted the importance of restoring relations with the fraternal and friendly neighboring states, which constitute geographical support for Sudan. The mosque preacher said the Sudanese are preoccupied with getting money for their sons' bread, milk, transportation, schools, and clothing. They cannot get it, and this distracts them from their religion, he said.

It should be noted that Dr. al-Bashir is an Islamic leader in Sudan. He spent part of his life in Saudi Arabia

before becoming a member of Sudan's Interim National Council (parliament).

Opposition Statement Describes Fighting in South

*NC1609162395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1530 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—The Sudanese opposition in Cairo has commended the Egyptian Government's "sound" decision to reduce its diplomatic mission in Sudan, describing it as a positive step after it was proven that the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime was involved in the aborted attempt on President Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa.

The opposition added in a statement today that this measure was a natural counteraction by the Egyptian Government, which was patient with this terrorist regime long enough and had to take that measure only after the OAU condemned the ruling Sudanese regime.

Touching on the escalation of military and popular domestic action against the regime, the statement pointed out that the "al-Mandari" clan's joining John Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in the equatorial region coincided with the move by the Sudanese people in the north, who are about to topple the regime. The al-Mandari clan has been loyal to the regime since March 1979. It waged battles against the SPLM and the Sudanese opposition.

The opposition statement cites reports from Khartoum as saying that the al-Mandari clan has seized the village of Jummayzah on the eastern bank of the Nile, 46 km away from Juba, the capital of the south. The village occupies a strategic location at the meeting point of the Nile River and the main road linking Burr and Juba.

The statement adds that the clan has taken some 32 of the National Islamic Front's militia as prisoners and seized the village of (Tumbi) on the west bank of the Nile.

According to reports from the south, fighting is now in progress outside the city of (Turkata) near Juba, which hosts a government garrison commanded by a colonel. The SPLM issued a statement two days ago, pointing out that battles raged in the areas of Barajak and (Lubuni) in the equatorial region. The statement said that over 150 of the Front's militia were taken prisoners as they tried to advance toward (Timuli) on the border with Uganda.

The Sudanese opposition statement pointed out that efforts to unite the SPLM factions have made progress. Commander William Fun, a dissident commander who broke away from Garang and then recently returned to his ranks, has succeeded in recruiting some troops who were loyal to Dr. Rick Mashar, the commander of a

dissident corps, in the area of (al-Nuwayr) east of the Nile.

The statement pointed out that the SPLM is now in full control of the cities of Aiyot, (Watt), (Finjal), and Akobo in the equatorial region. This represents a major triumph for the Sudanese opposition in general and demonstrates cohesion between the north and south to get rid of the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime.

The statement notes that these triumphs coincide with the resolutions of the OAU's Dispute Resolution Mechanism, which condemned the regime and accused it in connection with the attempted assassination of President Husni Mubarak.

Paper: Government Seeks Dialogue With Protestors

*AB1609155195 Paris AFP in English
1024 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 16 Sep (AFP) — Sudan called Saturday [16 September] for dialogue with students who led a wave of demonstrations in Khartoum and said it would release some of those arrested during the protests, newspapers reported. "Security authorities have tightened control over the sources of recent demonstrations and arrangements will be started for the release of the detainees," the daily AKHBAR AL-YOUM reported.

An unidentified official told the daily that the government "intends to pursue its goal of achieving political detente to provide the opportunity for all political forces to work together." Two prominent leftist lawyers arrested during the unrest, Mustafa 'Abd al-Qadir and Muhammad 'Ali al-Sayyid, would soon be released, the paper said.

Security forces rounded up almost 500 people following the anti-government protests which began on Monday and left at least three people dead. The demonstrations were the largest since President 'Umar al-Bashir took power in 1989. An AKHBAR AL-YOUM editorial urged Sudan's leaders to "bear in mind al-Bashir's call to listen to the other viewpoint." "We should not just say the students were agitated by remnants of the (banned) Communist Party or leftist forces. We should learn the motives that made them respond to the agitation and handle the matter wisely."

Khartoum accused Ethiopia and Eritrea, along with local leftists, of stirring up the disturbances. The paper noted that stern warnings from the Interior Ministry succeeded in ending the trouble after vowing to act "resolutely and decisively" toward any new demonstrations. Anti-riot police remained in Khartoum on Saturday, posted at the corners of the main streets, witnesses in the capital said.

Government To Prosecute

AB1709165895 Paris AFP in English
1016 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Sept 17 (AFP) — Sudan said on Sunday [17 September] it would put on trial a number of students who took part in violent anti-government demonstrations which left at least three dead last week.

"All students arrested during the demonstrations have been released, including those against whom there is proof of their participating in riots," Sudanese police general commissioner Abdel Monim Sayed Sulayman said. But the latter "will be prosecuted," Suleiman said, quoted by the daily AKHBAR AL-YOUM. Sulayman did not specify the number of students who would be put on trial.

Security forces arrested up to 500 people, including 270 students, in Khartoum and other cities during the wave of protests that erupted on Monday, the Sudanese Human Rights Organization (SHRO) said. Sulayman, who did not give a total number of arrests, confirmed a SHRO report that Ethiopians and Eritreans were among those rounded up by police.

Sudan has accused Addis Ababa and Asmara, as well as local communists, of stirring up students into rioting. Eritrea has broken diplomatic ties with Sudan, while Khartoum's relations with Addis Ababa have soured since Ethiopia accused it of backing a June 26 attempt to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on its soil.

"Conditions in the capital and the rest of the country are quite stable and there is nothing that disturbs security," the police chief said, noting that final exams were now underway at universities where protests began. Sulayman praised the performance of his corps, saying police "intervened decisively and resolutely" when demonstrations turned into riots due to "non-student elements, like street boys and others."

The official death toll from the unrest stood at three, while opposition parties said six were killed in the demonstrations which started after police arrested three students from Khartoum University. The Sudanese Bar Association was to meet Sunday to look into the situation of lawyers arrested during the troubles, AKHBAR AL-YOUM said.

The bar was "concerned with proper application of the law" in the arrests, bar member Ali Ahmed Nasri told the paper. But the association "would not hesitate to lift immunity from any member proved to have participated in activities contrary to the laws of the state," said Nasri, who also is head of the SHRO. Authorities said on Saturday they would soon release two leading leftist

lawyers, Mustapha Abdel Qadir and Ali Ahmed al-Sayed, who were arrested during the protests.

Ummah Party Claims Kenya Arrests 2 Members

NC1609152595 Paris AFP in English
1425 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Sept 16 (AFP) — Kenyan authorities arrested two Sudanese opposition figures in Nairobi on Saturday [16 September] and intend to send them to Khartoum, the opposition Ummah party here said.

Police took in Bashir Ahmad Salman, the head of the Ummah office in Nairobi, and Faysal Mustafa, a member of the National Unionist Party, during dawn raids on their homes in the Kenyan capital, an Ummah spokesman in Cairo told AFP.

"They are being held in a cell at the airport and the police will send them to Sudan," 'Abdallah al-Mahdi said, adding that Salman had been granted political asylum in Nairobi. Al-Mahdi could not say why the two were arrested. "I doubt this was an agreement between the two Kenyan and Sudanese governments. This sort of thing would be very damaging to Nairobi," he said.

"There is a lot of corruption in Kenya [as received] likely Sudan bribed police to bring them the two." Al-Mahdi said a previous head of the Ummah office in Nairobi, Nagib 'Abd-al-Wahhab, was similarly arrested by Kenyan police two years ago and threatened with deportation to Khartoum. Intervention by the United Nations instead won 'Abd-al-Wahhab's expulsion to Egypt, al-Mahdi said.

Release of Official Requested

NC1709165895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1625 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—The opposition Sudanese Ummah Party has cautioned against the unknown fate of citizen Bashir Ahmad Salman, the party official in Nairobi who was arrested in the Kenyan capital a few days ago. The party accused the security departments of the Sudanese Embassy in Nairobi of arresting the Sudanese oppositionist.

The party said in a statement it issued today that the arrest of citizen Bashir Ahmad Salman violates the rules of international law and the UN Charter because he was granted political asylum by the UNHCR in Nairobi. The statement asked the international community, human rights' organizations, and UN agencies to rescue the Sudanese citizen and stop him from being transported to Sudan.

In its statement, the party asked Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi and his government to intervene to discover where Salman is being held and release him or take him to wherever he wants to go.

Government Reports 10,000 Returnees From Libya

*EA1709191095 Khartoum SUNA in English
1721 GMT 17 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 17 September (SUNA) — Some 10,000 Sudanese nationals have returned to the Sudan from Libya so far, following Tripoli's decision ordering out all foreigners who do not have work permits. The returnees travelled by land and crossed into the Sudan at the al-Hamra, Kutum, and Malut crossing in western Sudan.

The government has formed a committee to facilitate the return of Sudanese nationals from Libya.

Al-Bashir: Country To Continue Economic Reforms

*EA1609174095 Omdurman National Unity Radio
in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has affirmed Sudan's determination to continue on the course of economic reforms, in line with the self-reliance policy. Speaking in his office at Friendship Hall in Khartoum yesterday, when he received an IMF delegation which has concluded negotiations with Finance Ministry officials, al-Bashir said this policy will enable the Sudanese economy to achieve growth, and to progress in various fields.

Finance Minister Abdullahi Hasan Ahmad, who attended the meeting, added that the president of the Republic had received a message from IMF Executive Director Michel Camdessus, in which he expressed his appreciation of Sudan's cooperation with the fund, particularly in the areas of payments, and economic reforms. The minister explained that the round of talks between Sudan and the fund which ended yesterday had reviewed issues discussed during the meetings which began on 10 September. He said agreement was reached on the bodies for programming payments, and on steps for implementing economic reform programs.

Mr. Abdullahi Hasan Ahmad explained there was agreement on a visit by a second IMF mission during the coming period to complete discussion on the work of

the present mission. Agreement was also reached on a medium-term program for 1996-1997-1998, and a detailed program for fiscal 1996, so that the results of the discussions can be presented to the fund's board of governors before December. He said these measures implement agreements made at a meeting of directors held on 4 August.

The minister said a point of disagreement emerged concerning the overall figures in relation to the liquidity and deficit account during the present six months of the life of the budget.

Foreign Minister Says Country Rejects 'Terrorism'

*EA1609173695 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio
Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha has affirmed the soundness of Sudan's position in the face of the accusations raised by Ethiopia and Egypt, who have fabricated baseless reports. His excellency added, in an interview broadcast on television yesterday, that Sudan rejects terrorism and political assassinations because it does not think that they are useful, and it believes that dialogue and argument should lead to the expected results. The foreign minister said: We are confident of the soundness of our position, and we are able to (?explain) this position, and to clarify the facts.

His excellency reviewed Sudan's stand in regard to the accusations, saying that the distinctive relations between Ethiopia and Sudan are the focus of the wrath of various forces that are trying to harm these relations.

He said that the attempted assassination of the president of the Egyptian regime provided a suitable opportunity for these prejudiced people and, after the attack, Ethiopia was exposed to an extensive campaign of international and regional pressure at the initiative of Eritrea and Egypt. The foreign minister said that these developments are the result of extensive moves in the past.

Mr. 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha said that a campaign to clarify the facts among regional and international organizations and other states is being prepared, so that everyone will come to realize that the people and Government of Sudan are hoping for relationships based on respect and cooperation.

Kuwait

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Posuvalyuk Visits

To Discuss Ties, Other Issues

LD1609083095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
0802 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 16 Sep (KUNA) — Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk arrived in the country today on a two-day official visit. The visit will be an opportunity to boost bilateral relations and to consult on the latest developments in the region.

The Kuwaiti News Agency, KUNA, has learned that Posuvalyuk will be meeting during his visit a number of senior Kuwaiti officials for talks on bilateral issues and other important topics.

The guest, who is the special envoy of the Russian president to the Middle East, was greeted upon arrival by Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Foreign Ministry undersecretary, and members of the Russian Embassy.

Delivers Message From Kozyrev

LD1609174695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1559 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 16 Sep — Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk and the Kuwaiti Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin today reviewed the mechanism of bolstering joint relations and the changes in the conditions in the area.

Posuvalyuk, who arrived in Kuwait earlier today, during his 90-minute meeting with al-Shahin delivered a message from Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, the Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who is currently on a visit to Turkey.

Sources at the meeting informed KUNA that the message is in connection with bilateral relations and the developments in the area.

These sources stated that Posuvalyuk, in the course of his talks on bilateral questions, stressed Russia's principled position to issues that concern Kuwait, particularly the need for Iraq to respect international resolutions related to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

The sources said the meeting covered mainly the stance and the policies of the two countries on the defections to Jordan in August of the two daughters and sons-in-law of the head of the Iraqi regime, Saddam Husayn, and the ensuing regional developments and possible repercussions.

According to the sources, al-Shahin and Posuvalyuk exchanged views on the issues for discussion in the agenda of the forthcoming session of the UN General Assembly, which is scheduled for October and will coincide with the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

The sources said the Kuwaiti and Russian officials discussed a number of projects that the Kuwaiti development fund intends to implement in the Russian Federation.

The decision of the Kuwaiti fund to invest in Russia comes within the context of the two countries' endeavor to expand the scope of joint action in the economic field in accordance with the agreement on economic, commercial, scientific, and technical fields which was signed last November.

Kuwait and Moscow committed themselves to this agreement and four other protocols and agreements that cover most fields of common relations. These agreements were the outcome of the visit that Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin paid to Kuwait in the context of a tour to the region.

Comments on Iraq, UN Resolutions

LD1709175295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1649 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait — Russia has today reaffirmed its intention to continue asking Iraq to honor all conditions of the UN resolutions relating to Iraq's invasion of the State of Kuwait. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk described the issues of Kuwaiti prisoners and properties held by Iraq as being among the major priorities that Russian diplomacy is striving to solve. Posuvalyuk, who was speaking to KUNA at the end of his two-day visit to Kuwait, said: "I have assured our Kuwaiti friends in the name of the Russian Government that we would continue to adopt positions that call on Iraq to implement all the UN resolutions that were consequential to its August 1990 occupation of Kuwait." Posuvalyuk concentrated on the importance of Baghdad abiding by the clauses of the said resolutions, which stipulate the necessity of eliminating Iraq's weapons of total destruction. [passage omitted]

On his predictions regarding future positions at the UN Security Council on the sanctions imposed on Iraq in the light of Iraq's declared biological program, Posuvalyuk linked this issue to "the nature of the report expected from the head of the UN commission [word indistinct] Rolf Ekeus next October."

The Russian official also linked this issue "to the extent Baghdad would implement the remaining paragraphs

of the pertinent international resolutions." [passage omitted]

The Russian deputy foreign minister emphasized that Russian calls to Baghdad were not free from demands to respect human rights inside Iraq. He said: "We have not given up demands for human rights in any country." [passage omitted]

He added: "If we are on this subject, I believe it is related to the unity of Iraqi territory," stressing Moscow's adherence to this matter.

The Russian official expressed "Russia's extreme satisfaction with the content of the joint political dialogue" with regard to his assessment of the Kuwaiti-Russian understanding about matters of bilateral relations and the latest regional and international developments. [passage omitted]

Posuvalyuk said: "I have coordinated with Kuwaiti officials some steps that would enable us to speed up economic projects, hold a seminar on Russia and its investment environment, as well as an exhibition of its products in Kuwait."

Sources close to a meeting held between Posuvalyuk and Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, the Kuwaiti deputy foreign minister, told KUNA that the officials discussed some projects that the Kuwaiti Development Fund intends to carry out in Russia. [passage omitted]

Posuvalyuk also said: "I have informed the Kuwaiti side of our stances and views on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina". He added: "There may be some differences between us on this situation."

However, he added, "it is important to continue the dialogue and reveal the content of our position in order to understand each other."

Indian Oil Minister Arrives for 2-Day Visit

*LD1609102895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
0940 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Satish Sharma, Indian minister of state for petroleum, arrived in Kuwait this morning on a two-day official visit at the invitation of his Kuwaiti counterpart. The Indian minister, who is leading a high-powered delegation, is to sign an agreement between Kuwait and India to build a joint oil refinery in northeast India. On arrival, Sharma told KUNA that the building of the refinery will be beneficial to both India and Kuwait as partners and pointed out that this project is vital for both economies. [passage omitted]

For his part, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Mid'aj in a statement to KUNA welcomed the Indian minister and his delegation and said India is an

important market as far as Kuwait is concerned. The Kuwaiti share in the refinery, whose capacity will be 120,000 barrels per day, is 26 percent, the same as India, while 48 percent will be offered to shareholders. The minister said Kuwaiti crude oil will comprise a large contribution of this jointly owned refinery. He said the matter was still under study.

Oil Refinery Project Signed

*LD1609164795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1417 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 Sep — A memorandum of understanding between Kuwait and India was signed here today on setting up a joint oil refinery with an overall capacity estimated at about six million tonnes annually, which could be increased to 10 million tonnes, at the cost of more than 1 billion dollars.

According to the memorandum of understanding between Kuwait Petroleum Company and the Indian Oil Corporation, a series of measures would be adopted for establishing a joint company between the two sides with its headquarters in India with the main aim of setting up and operating an oil refinery in the state of Orissa in northeast India. The two sides would immediately undertake technical and economic feasibility studies of the refinery.

The memorandum of understanding stipulated that the Kuwaiti Petroleum Company and the Indian Oil Corporation each owned 26 percent of the shares of the joint company, while the remaining shares, which amount to 48 percent, would be offered to those individuals and institutions in India interested in contributing.

The financing of the project depends on the use of paid capital and foreign loans. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti oil minister said "the refinery will contribute to creating a continuous market for the Kuwaiti oil with which the refinery will be supplied."

Dr. al-Mid'aj denied that building a joint refinery would affect the contracts currently concluded to export Kuwaiti oil products to India, saying that "there would be no effect on these contracts."

The Kuwaiti oil minister pointed out that the management of the refinery, the capacity of which was estimated at 120,000 barrels per day, and capable of expanding to 200,000 barrels, would be a joint Kuwait-Indian management.

Deputy Prime Minister on Regional Issues

LD1609071595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
0613 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will today leave for Turkey to convey a message from the amir to Turkish President Suleyman Demirel. During the visit Shaykh Sabah will meet Turkish Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu to discuss with him international and regional issues of common interest. In a press statement published today, Shaykh Sabah has denied that Kuwait has chosen its ambassador to Jordan, and pointed out that his meeting with Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti in Cairo will be within the framework of a series of meetings he is expected to hold with Arab ministers during their meeting there.

In a statement to the daily AL-ANBA, Shaykh Sabah said his meeting with Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti on the margin of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo will be within the framework of a series of meeting he is expected to hold with the ministers who will attend this conference in order to exchange views on many of issues of common interest.

In the statement Shaykh Sabah reaffirmed the strength of Kuwaiti-Iranian relations, which are based on fruitful fraternal cooperation, which is for the good of both countries and peoples. [passage omitted]

Deputy Minister Leaves for Visit to Turkey

LD1609095395 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
0915 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left today for Ankara to deliver a message from the Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, amir of Kuwait, to Turkish President Suleyman Demirel. In the course of his two-day visit to Turkey, Shaykh Sabah will discuss with his Turkish counterpart Erdal Inonu the means for bolstering bilateral relations and the regional and international development of events, especially those of interest to both countries. [passage omitted]

Comments on Visit

LD1709180795 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1700 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwait's first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today praised the firmness of the Turkish stances regarding the necessity of Iraq's implementation of all the UN Security Council resolutions relating to Iraq's treacherous aggression on the State of Kuwait. Shaykh

Sabah al-Ahmad said in a statement to KUNA following his return today from a two-day official visit to Turkey that he had delivered a letter from His Highness the Amir to His Excellency Turkish President Suleyman Demirel that contained greetings and best wishes from His Highness to His Excellency and to the friendly Turkish people for progress and prosperity. He added that he had expressed to President Demirel the sentiments of appreciation and gratefulness of the State of Kuwait — Amir, government, and people — for the principled stance that Turkey took against the treacherous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and its participation in the framework of the international alliance in the operation to liberate the State of Kuwait, and for adopting effective steps in ensuring the implementation of the sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council on Iraq. The first deputy prime minister and foreign minister reaffirmed that he had found in the Turkish president and officials a continuation of the strong support for Kuwait's policy. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

CDLR Bulletin on Death Sentence, Punishment

MS0809133295 London CDLR Monitor in English
25 Aug 95

[Bulletin No 62 issued by the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR); issued on 25 August — received via Internet 8 Sep]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

The Definite Evidence of the Manipulation of Legitimate Rulings

Praise be to Allah and Peace Be Upon His Prophet. The Saudi Interior Ministry has released a statement which contained the "legitimation" of the sentence to kill Abdullah Ibn 'Abd-al-Rahman al Hudayf. judicial decisions can be regarded as even more critical than fatwas because of their direct practical implications and as such we felt the obligation to expose the misleading aspects of the statement, which was presented as an Islamic sentence without regard to whether al Hudayf was killed under torture or not. The Ministry's declaration was clearly confused about deciding the legitimate grounds for the sentence, whether the case should fall under retribution, castigation (punishment where there is no specified penalty) or banditry. However, it would appear that the authorities simply wanted to kill al Hudayf by any means but, of course, needed to present this in an Islamic manner. In the following brief discussion, we will expose the fact that the rulers have no regard for Shari'ah in their actions, and only actually resort to using it, incorrectly, in order to justify the disposal

of their opponents and critics. We will also expose the actions of the judges in their manipulation of Shari'ah on behalf of the oppressors, in order to mislead and deceive the nation. During the course of this discussion, we will clarify, without a doubt, that al-Hudhayf should never have been charged on the grounds of retribution, castigation, or banditry.

The Refutation of the Killing From a Conviction of Retribution:

It is generally known to students of Islam that the validity of retribution relies on the equality of the action and the punishment. In the case of al-Hudayf, the victim was not actually killed, and so did not necessitate that the defendant should be killed in retribution for his act. Regarding the Interior Ministry's wording in the statement, to the effect that the intention of the defendant was to kill, this supposition has absolutely no basis in Shari'ah, as the intention to kill has no value unless the killing actually takes place. The scholars state that, for the "intention" to kill to be considered, the killing has to occur as a direct result of the actions of the defendant. This action has to be severe enough to cause death. So, if death was a result of an action unrelated to the defendant, or the action of the defendant was not of the severity that would normally be expected to result in death, then the defendant cannot be considered as a murderer. In addition to this, the knowledge of the defendant's intention to kill cannot be extracted by torture or force, but it can be decided from the instrument used in the attack. Imam Ibn-Qudama said that premeditation cannot be considered by itself, but must be decided and supported by the instrument used in the attack. Al-Karkhi said that premeditation is considered when the instrument in the attack is used in such a manner that in the majority of cases such action could reasonably be expected to cause severe damage. Therefore, intent to kill and premeditation, can be deduced from the manner of killing and the instrument used. Murder with an instrument that is known for not causing death is evidence of spontaneity, rather than premeditation. In this case, al-Hudayf threw a quantity of acid on an interrogator from the security police force. It is known to most people that such an action was taken with the intention of giving the security man a lesson for his actions in torturing innocent people and was not intended to cause his death. Therefore, killing al-Hudhayf as a penalty for retribution is totally inappropriate and unlawful because it lacks the following two conditions: — (1) The death of the victim did not actually occur, and actual murder is the main cause for the application of the penalty for the retribution. — (2) The lack of intention to kill, which can only be judged by the instrument used in the attack.

Killing under retribution, without the death of the victim being caused by the defendant's actions, is contrary to the unanimous decision of the scholars, and therefore using this as a reason, or excuse, to kill al-Hudayf, is a fabrication of shari'ah.

The Refutation of the Killing From a Conviction of Banditry:

The statement of the court attempted to classify the actions of al-Hudayf against the interrogator as falling under the classification of banditry. Attempts were made to make the people feel that his actions should be treated as "banditry," because al-Hudayf had chosen Major Sa'ud al-Shibrin in particular, as revenge for his actions in torturing him whilst in prison. This would appear to be a case of personal vengeance, rather than trying to cause chaos or insurrection.

The punishment for banditry is controlled by certain legal factors which cannot be manipulated by rulers or corrupt judges. The Hanbali sect, which is prevalent in the peninsula, from whose fatwas and judicial rulings are extracted, concludes that bandits are thieves and outlaws. Ibn-Taymiyyah stated that a bandit who must be killed if convicted of banditry, is one who kills for the sake of money or material gain. The person who kills for personal reasons, over a dispute, for example, or in animosity, would present a case to be undertaken by the deceased man's heirs. In other words, this case should be considered under retribution. Therefore, killing al-Hudayf under the penalties imposed for banditry is a mistake that even a new student of Shari'ah is unlikely to make.

The Refutation of the Killing for a Conviction of Castigation:

The statement mentioned that the sentence passed on al-Hudayf was also considered under the rules of castigation. Such a false statement holds the door wide open for rulers to do as they please with their opponents, without any controls, and all under the cover of Islamic legitimacy. The statement arrogantly mentioned that: "Allah (SWT) gave permission for penalties under castigation, which may differ according to the time, the place and the crime." This was mentioned without quoting legitimate evidence from Koran, Sunna or scholars statements, where in such a case, this statement could only be considered to be a fabrication and a falsehood. It is well known that within the unclassified punishments under Shari'ah, they should not exceed the definite punishments of Allah in severity. Some opinions went as far as to make penalties under castigation not exceed ten lashes of the whip. The opinion of the majority of scholars places maximum limits for punishments meted out

under castigation, and did not, in fact, leave this open to manipulation and misuse. The few scholars who actually allowed the death penalty under castigation enforced extremely strict conditions which will be mentioned later. The following are the opinions of various scholars regarding the rules controlling castigation. Imam Ibn-Qudama said: "penalties under castigation should not reach the same level as definite punishments. Castigation is the punishment for a crime that is not mentioned clearly in Koran or Sunna, but it is a deterrent against further criminal activities. It is evident from the actions of the Caliphs and Companions that punishment on the grounds of castigation should not exceed the known definite punishments, in accordance with two interpretations of a Hadith: — (1) The Prophet (PBUH) [Praise Be Upon Him] said, [No one should be whipped more than ten lashes unless under a definite punishment from Allah (SWT).] (2) The Prophet (PBUH) said, [punishment under castigation should not reach the level of definite punishments.] Punishments as penalties under castigation can only be implemented by flogging, imprisonment or rebuke, and must not cut, injure or fine, because the duty is to deter, and deterrence cannot be achieved by causing damage to the defendant." Ibn-Taymiyyah said: that scholars had disputes regarding the maximum severity of penalties under castigation, and he preferred the opinion of al-Shaf'i'i, Ahmad and others, who said that punishment under castigation should not exceed the punishments defined by Islamic Shari'ah. A third opinion stated that under castigation, punishment should not exceed ten lashes of the whip. With regard to the opinion adopted in the legitimate courts of Saudi Arabia, punishment under castigation should not exceed ten lashes, according to the Sahih Hadith, "I would not punish more than ten lashes except in a known sentence commanded by Allah (SWT)." Referring back to the scholars who allowed the death penalty as a sentence permissible under castigation, the scholars restricted such a sentence under two conditions. Firstly, if the criminal is killed during the act of committing a crime, and could not have been prevented from committing the crime except by killing him, then this would be allowed. However, if the crime had already occurred and the criminal was apprehended, then he would be punished under the penalties designated for the nature of the crime. This means that killing is only acceptable in order to prevent imminent danger or to protect oneself. The second condition where a man can be punished with death, is when repeated acts of criminal behaviour have occurred and after all designated punishments have been applied to deter an individual he still persists in committing criminal acts. This individual would then be considered as an attacker who could only be deterred by the punishment of death. Imam Ibn-Hazm said that people have

had disputes with regard to punishments under castigation, and some went as far as to give the leader the authority to decide the actual punishment. Others limited this to one hundred lashes or less; others said less than a maximum of 99 lashes; other said 79 lashes or less; others said 30 lashes and others said that the punishment should not exceed nine lashes. Imam Ibn Hazm said that because of — such disputes, we must look deeply into the evidence available. From such evidence we can see that the first opinion, which gave total authority to the leader to decide punishments, is actually the opinion farthest removed from Koran and Sunna, and has no definite evidence, neither from the Companions of the Prophet, nor from the earliest scholars. We examined the Sahih Hadith that says that no one should be punished in excess of ten lashes except within a punishment designated for a particular crime. This Hadith is clear evidence that it should not be exceeded. The final conclusion of the above discussion is as follows: — (1) There is no known, legitimate statement or verse that gives the authorities the right to kill as punishment under castigation, as was claimed by the Ministry's statement. — (2) The two conditions given by some scholars to allow killing under the rule of castigation do not apply in the case of al-Hudayf.

Anyone with even a limited amount of knowledge would realise from the Ministry's statement, especially with regard to al-Hudayf's case, that the attempts to make their crime sound legally justifiable have failed miserably. The so-called "legitimate" statement is clear evidence that whoever actually wrote it has absolutely no ties to any knowledge whatsoever, and the wording and content of the statement sound more like one of those statements issued by oppressive security bodies. It was clear to anyone that the whole aim of the statement was to justify the killing of al-Hudayf. Therefore, it can be said that the judges have committed two crimes. The first crime is the actual participation in the killing of an innocent man., the second, and perhaps even greater crime, is to falsify statements in the name of Shari'ah in order to mislead and deceive the people.

News

Riyadh Court Takes Vengeance for the Jamees

Heated disputes are taking place in the corridors of the Riyadh Court, regarding a group of young men from Ha'il, many of whom have had sentences passed on them in order to please the pro-regime Jamee group. The judges are extremely anxious about the case, particularly after the strong, psychological public pressure that faced the judges who were embroiled in the killing of al-Hudayf. We therefore take this opportunity to advise these judges of the dangers of pleasing the authorities

and of betraying their own morality, Shari'ah and Allah Himself. We hope that the examples of al-Luhaydan and al Muqbil are not the prevailing norm with the majority of judges.

Al-Luhaydan's Lies

Al-Luhaydan swore before a group of students of Islam and relatives of the victim, that he had absolutely no knowledge of the death sentence that was passed on the victim, and that he had only been aware of the earlier sentence of 20 years. However, our trusted and confirmed sources in the Judiciary, Interior Ministry and the royal administration, have informed us that Shaykh al-Luhaydan not only signed the death sentence, but he was also the one who followed it through, and pressurised the other judges of the High Court and Court of Appeal to advise the death sentence. The dates of the communications between the Judiciary Council, the King and the Interior Ministry have also been recorded. Whether al-Luhaydan vows that he had no previous knowledge of the sentence or not, and whether we confirm that he did or not, al-Luhaydan is still legitimately and morally responsible for this crime, especially as the statement from the Interior Ministry indicated that the sentence had been confirmed by the Judiciary Council. If al-Luhaydan was truthful in his claim that he had no prior knowledge of the sentence, then he has two choices of action available to him in order to prove his innocence. Firstly, he can declare what he has said in writing, and sign it. We would be prepared to publish and distribute this, both inside, and outside, the country. Secondly, he could declare his resignation from the Judiciary Council, giving reasons for his resignation. Otherwise, he will still be held responsible for the crime, a responsibility greater than that of the ruler's share in the crime, as a result of his actions in attempting to legitimise that which is not legitimate.

Was the Execution of al-Sa'nuni Political?

Abdallah al-Sa'nuni was executed over two weeks ago, and the statement issued by the Interior Ministry mentioned that he had been executed for drug trafficking. However, it later came to light that the deceased had originally been sentenced to seven years imprisonment. During his years in prison, al-Sa'nuni had time to reflect on his past actions and repent to the Creator. Al-Sa'nuni memorised the whole Koran whilst in prison, and became a man of faith. He felt it to be his duty to inform the authorities as to the identity of the principal personality behind the importing of drugs into the country, this personality being one of the prominent princes. Despite the advice of his companions in prison, al-Sa'nuni insisted on informing the authorities. This admission led

to a re-trial with the death sentence being pronounced on al-Sa'nuni, all after several years spent in prison completing the original sentence. It can be assumed that the authorities were intent on burying his secret with him.

Shari'ah Supports al-Hudayf's Innocence

With this bulletin, we include an Islamic legitimate investigation of the Interior Ministry's statement, in which the authorities claim al-Hudayf's execution was lawful. The statement declares that the death sentence was passed as punishment under castigation, but also indicated retribution and banditry in a most misleading manner in order to produce the understanding that the death sentence was a result of charges under a combination of castigation, retribution and banditry. The investigation discusses all these claims and refutes them fully, with clear evidence from Koran, Sunna and the statements of scholars. The investigation concluded that the ones who issued the statement are the killers, and that they have spilt innocent blood with prior knowledge.

International Agencies Criticise the Killing of al-Hudayf

Amnesty International and the Human Rights Monitor, the two main human rights organisations in the world, considered the killing of al-Hudayf to be apolitical execution, and both organisations strongly condemned the repetition of his trial and the increased severity of the new sentence. They put the blame on the influence of the royal family. The American Human rights Monitor, in a long report distributed to news agencies, international TV and radio stations and the press, stated that the killing was part of a confrontation between the Government and the opposition, led by CDLR. The organisations raised doubts regarding the method by which al-Hudayf was killed, and indicated that many feared that he had been killed under torture. They requested an autopsy of the body by independent parties and called on the Saudi authorities to halt the campaign of political arrests and extraction of confessions under torture. They also requested the immediate release of all political detainees.

Sa'ud bin Fahd In London

In accord with the intelligence campaign against the Committee this summer, the King decided to send his son Sa'ud, the deputy to the head of the Saudi intelligence services, to follow the CDLR case more closely. Sa'ud had formed an emergency committee and contacted various personalities to assist him in fulfilling his mission. People dealing with Sa'ud for the first time noticed his extreme simplicity and limited horizons, and exchanged jokes about his numerous shortcomings !

'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Fahd on the Spanish Beaches

The yacht, "The King", sailed into Spain recently, Malaga to be precise, with the young prince, 'Abd-al-'Aziz on board. The prince was accompanied on his voyage by a huge entourage to provide him with all necessary and "essential" services. Under the command of the prince was a huge intern. communications network and a fleet of aeroplanes. One of the planes was specially equipped to transport hot meals prepared in French restaurants, another was used to transport newspapers from London each day; other planes were used to transport various other "goodies" from Morocco and Rome. This year the prince altered his security arrangements as a result of the 'al Hudaif' crime committed by his father and uncles.

Yemen

Security Forces Arrest 6 Muslim Fundamentalists

*LD1509201595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1930 GMT 15 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Aden, 15 Sep — Colonel Muhammad Salih Tariq, chief of security in Aden, has stated that the security forces have arrested the elements which recently carried out terrorist acts and explosions in Aden. The most recent of these incidents was the hurling of a hand grenade and a tear gas bomb at a wedding ceremony held last Sunday night at al-Hilal Athletic Club, which left several women and children dead.

The sources added in a statement to KUNA that the six suspects belonged to the "fundamentalist group" [al-jama'ah al-'usuliyyah] who returned from Afghanistan and carried Yemeni documentation. During the interrogation they admitted carrying out these terrorist acts, and they revealed the source of their finance and the ways they entered Aden.

The chief of security refused to disclose this information, and stressed that it is the responsibility of the judges to whom the suspects will be referred after the security quarters and the prosecution have completed the investigation into them.

He said the security forces in charge of protecting the free zone in Aden, which will start its activities at the beginning of next year, have completed their preparations and will start their task soon at the airport, port, the industrial area, and the tourism establishments. He pointed out that the process of equipping and training these forces was completed in cooperation with a European company that specializes in this.

'Militants' Expelled Under Pressure From Egypt

*NC1709133195 Paris AFP in English
1226 GMT 17 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sept 17 (AFP)—Yemen has expelled hundreds of Islamic militants after it came under fire from Egypt and other countries for sheltering them, an adviser to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said.

"Hundreds of Arab extremists known as Islamists," including Egyptians, were expelled, General Yahya al-Mutawakkil said in Monday's [18 September] edition of the United Arab Emirates weekly, AL-SHURUQ.

Many belonged to Jihad (holy war), which has militants in Egypt, Lebanon, and Palestinian areas, al-Mutawakkil said. Some were veterans of the war in Afghanistan.

"These militants were not in military camps. Some were living in Yemen as theology students and others as teachers," he said. "They conducted inappropriate activities using this cover."

The official did not say when and to where they were expelled.

Yemen's Interior Minister Colonel Husayn 'Arab last month denied that his country had handed militants over to the Egyptian authorities, saying that there was no extradition treaty between the two countries.

Sanaa and Cairo said in June they would sign such a treaty.

Yemeni authorities launched a campaign in August to check the status of foreigners living in the country, expelling hundreds of Somali refugees.

Salih Arrives in Paris From U.S. En Route Home

*JN1509175695 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih arrived in the French capital, Paris, from the United States at 0830 today on his way to the homeland. He was received at Charles de Gaulle Airport by brother Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Iryani, our country's ambassador to the Republic of France, and the Yemeni Embassy's staff.

The brother president left Washington last night after paying a private visit to the United States during which he underwent some medical checkups at the Mayo Clinic, the results of which were good and reassuring. The brother president was seen off at the airport by brother Muhsin al-'Ayni, our country's ambassador to the United States; brother 'Abdallah al-Ashtal, our

country's delegate to the United Nations; and the staff of our embassy in Washington.

Salih Arrives in Geneva, Calls on UAE President

JN1709101195 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih arrived in Geneva, Switzerland, yesterday. He was welcomed at Geneva airport by Ambassador Dr. Faraj Bin-Ghanim, Yemen's permanent representative to the European UN headquarters, and the United Arab Emirates' [UAE] ambassador to Switzerland. [passage omitted]

The brother president also called on his brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, at his place of residence in Geneva. The two leaders' talks dealt with the bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in all fields in the interest of the two brotherly peoples. The two leaders also discussed and exchanged views on several issues and regional, Arab, and Islamic developments, led by developments in Bosnia, and ways of supporting the march of stability and peace in region. In addition, discussions dealt with international issues of joint interest. [passage omitted]

Saddam Reportedly Initiates Contacts With U.S.

*JN1809104995 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic
20 Sep 95 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-HADATH has learned from an informed Jordanian source that the Iraqi president held several contacts with the U.S. Administration last month through the Polish Embassy in Baghdad, which is looking after U.S. interests in Iraq.

The source, who preferred to remain anonymous, indicated that the Iraqi letters focused on the U.S. conditions required to be met by President Saddam and the Iraqi leadership in exchange for an improvement in the Iraqi-U.S. ties, which have been strained since 8 August 1990.

The source stressed that these Iraqi letters to the U.S. Administration have not been answered, and that the U.S. "silence" toward this Iraqi gesture has aggravated the ambiguous state of affairs as perceived by the Iraqi leadership and President Saddam himself, particularly with regard to what they can do to appease Washington and reach an understanding with it on all political, economic, and military issues.

The source disclosed that the information available to Jordan confirms that Washington has decided to change the Iraqi regime. However, the source explained to AL-HADATH that Washington has not thus far specified how this objective will be achieved, nor has it determined the scenario of change in Iraq.

Baghdad Broadcasts Remarks by King Husayn

*JN1709192195 Baghdad Iraq Television Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] King Husayn yesterday met with several Jordanian journalists at the Jordanian Royal Court. At the outset of the meeting, the king admitted there was pressure from Jordanian public opinion supporting Iraq. He said: There has been much talk about fraternal Iraq. There has also been many statements and interpretations by politicians, whether these people are professionals or amateurs. Much has been said about the stand of the Jordanian public. The Jordanian public may be mobilized in support of Iraq.

King Husayn then repeated what he already referred to in his speech on 23 August: that Iraq and Jordan stemmed from the Great Arab Revolt, that what happened in 1958 was a right of the Iraqis, that he was surprised by the war between Iraq and Iran, that he supports the unity of Iraq and lifting the suffering caused by the foreign embargo imposed on it, and that Iraq owes Jordan \$1.1 billion.

Regarding the importation of oil, he said it is his duty to constantly search for readily available alternatives to not be caught off guard by a cutoff in oil supplies, as was the case in 1958. He said such actions are precautionary measures to face any eventuality or surprise that may cause an interruption in Iraqi oil supplies to Jordan. The search for alternative oil does not mean replacement.

King Husayn then stressed once again that he has no personal design or ambition for any position in Iraq. However, he said Iraq is threatened and he feels that, what he termed, a national reconciliation must be achieved among the three elements in Iraq and that his tormented consciousness is the source for his fear for Iraq. He stressed once again that he has no personal ambition, goal, or objective, but has good wishes for Iraq, just as for Jordan.

King Husayn then answered the Jordanian journalists' questions by saying: When we blame you, this stems from the great hopes we pin on you. I think we should do some soul-searching. We should admit that on the media level, we have been losing many battles as a result of the confusion we notice. This is despite the fact that I am very close to you.

Asked by a journalist on how Jordan can help Iraq end its suffering, while not intervening in its domestic affairs, King Husayn said: It is difficult to answer this question.

Asked if Jordan can bring closer the viewpoints of the three elements that make up Iraq and how he envisages the method of action because Iraq's help directly affects Jordan, King Husayn said: I have no answer. What is important is that we support the Iraqi people and their right to live in national unity.

He added: We have seen how the Security Council prepared armies and was ready to intervene in Haiti. But at the last moment, certain people — the king means the U.S. Administration — opted to send certain political figures which spoke to the competent authorities in Haiti — the king means Haiti's former ruler, General Raoul Cedras, whom the Americans did not like. The result was that the process took place without bloodshed — meaning that General Cedras relinquished power to the current ruler Jean-Bertrand Aristide, whom the Americans like.

King Husayn said: This was our position, and we have always raised it in the past years in defense of Iraq. We called for dialogue between the Americans and Iraq, similar to the dialogue with Haiti.

The king added: One of the factors that affected the credibility of Iraq is its position on the weapons of mass destruction and the Kuwaiti missing persons.

A journalist asked King Husayn about the purpose of Husayn Kamil's defection and the ongoing talk about Jordan, and if Arab solidarity can be achieved in the future. King Husayn did not answer the first part of the question. He answered the second part by saying: We must seek to achieve Arab solidarity.

Another journalist posed a question, saying: I am one of the people who, after the defection of Husayn Kamil, noticed a change in the Jordanian position. The priority of that position has now shifted from lifting the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people to toppling the Iraqi regime. Your majesty spoke about reconciliation among the three elements. What role can the existing Iraqi regime play in this reconciliation, especially if Jordan can play a role in the reconciliation between the Iraqi regime and the Iraqi opposition although it is not easy to deal with the Iraqi opposition due to its multiple allegiances? One other point, there are some who say that the Jordanian-Israeli settlement has become a stick in the wheels of democracy in Jordan and several things have taken place to give this impression.

King Husayn responded: The settlement will never be a stick in the wheels of democracy. Regarding the position on Iraq, it has not changed. Brothers, you are talking about democracy on the one hand and human rights on the other. We are honest to ourselves. Husayn Kamil has chosen Jordan because Jordan is not an agent to anyone. We should stop worshipping idols and beating about the bush. The hands of the clock cannot go backward. We are part of this world and we must understand this fact.

King Husayn asked the Jordanian journalists to refer to the National Charter.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and a number of advisers.

Finance Minister on Husayn Kamil's Defection

*NC1609081595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0515 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—Iraqi Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir has stated that Iraq will pay all compensation arising from the Gulf war in line with its commitment to implement the UN Security Council resolutions. He added that it is in the interest of the states demanding compensation to demand that the embargo first be lifted.

In remarks to al-AHRAM's correspondent in Rabat and published by the newspaper today, al-Khudayyir said the defection of Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid, former Iraqi industry minister and son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, has rocked Jordanian-Iraqi relations.

On the disclosure of Iraq's armament program to the UN Special Commission, al-Khudayyir said Husayn Kamil concealed this information from Rolf Ekeus, as well as from the Iraqi leadership. He always caused problems for Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz over this issue because he kept all this information to himself and revealed little of it.

Al-Khudayyir explained that the Iraqi Government does not underestimate the defection of Husayn Kamil or the secrets he holds. He was director of the Military Industrialization Organization from its establishment in 1986 until his defection. He holds the secrets of Iraqi military and civilian industry. The Iraqi Government anticipates that he will use all these secrets to harm Iraq's military and strategic interests. But he said the harm done to the Iraqi Government and people will be temporary. Al-Khudayyir said the biological and germ weapons Iraq possesses are merely projects to produce these weapons. [sentence as received]

Asked why some people cannot explain the defection of Husayn Kamil, Khudayyir said it was not stage-managed, but real. Husayn Kamil prepared long for his defection. His behavior was noticed during meetings of the Iraqi Cabinet, at which he behaved strangely. He was always nervous, rejecting cooperation with the Security Council and the UN inspection team. He always demanded that Iraq rescind its approval of all the UN resolutions on the Gulf war. He once demanded that the Iraqi Government officially and unequivocally rescind its recognition of Kuwait. His utterances are recorded on videotape broadcast on Iraqi television. Husayn Kamil always demanded that the Iraqi Government rescind its approval of Security Council Resolution 715 concerning the long-term monitoring of Iraqi weapons. He considered all Arab countries enemies of Iraq and he specifically endeavored to undermine Iraqi-Jordanian relations.

Asked why Husayn Kamil was allowed to escape, despite all these observations about him, Khudayyir said Husayn Kamil always spoke in the name of President Saddam Husayn. Everybody, including ministers and officials, believed his statements and points of view reflected those of the president. He had a violent temper. Before his defection he stole millions of dollars from the Iraqi Treasury. He stole \$8.7 million plus a large quantity of Iraqi dinars with which he bought gold and dollars on the black market.

Khudayyir said this figure is provisional. Committees have been formed to examine the accounts of the Industry Ministry, the Military Industrialization Organization, and the other departments he headed. The committees have not finished their work.

Asked about the possibility of ministers and their families escaping abroad with large quantities of money and jewelry, Khudayyir said Husayn Kamil was a very high-ranking Iraqi official. He gave his defection official cover. He was scheduled to visit Bulgaria at the head of a technical delegation from the Industry Ministry. The delegation preceded him to Amman. He was scheduled to leave Amman Airport on a Bulgarian plane.

Khudayyir said Saddam Kamil Hasan al-Majid knew of his brother's defection plans. The two brothers deceived their wives Raghdah and Rana—Saddam Husayn's daughters—and persuaded them that they would be attending a women's festival to mark the prophet's birthday. When the two women noticed that they had traveled far and were approaching the Jordanian border, their husbands told them they would be taking them to Bulgaria as a surprise gift. Khudayyir said the guards who returned to Baghdad related what they had heard between Husayn Kamil and Raghdah and Rana.

Asked whether Husayn Kamil might have arranged his defection with foreign or Arab quarters, Khudayyir said Husayn Kamil naturally coordinated his defection with several quarters. One month before his defection he was in Moscow and stopped over in Amman, where he met Jordanian officials. The best proof of coordination is that soon after his defection U.S. naval fleets moved, senior officials were sent to meet him, and news conferences were arranged for him.

Khudayyir denied Iraq has any information that neighboring countries played a role in the defection. But he promised that all the facts and circumstances will be released soon. He said the defection of Husayn Kamil rocked Jordanian-Iraqi relations but this has been transcended and ties are recovering from the shock.

Khudayyir said Iraq has implemented all the Security Council resolutions on the Gulf war and that the sanctions must be lifted. But Husayn Kamil's defection and claims that Baghdad planned to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have weakened Iraq's position. But every reasonable person knows Iraq cannot wage any war under its current circumstances. He said: The embargo must not be linked with the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners, because we do not have prisoners. The so-called prisoners are missing people, as happens in all wars.

Husayn Kamil Said To Talk With Exiled Iraqi Royalty

JN1709115995 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic
18 Sep 95 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Well-informed Western Diplomatic sources have revealed to AL-MUHARRIR that Iraqi defector General Husayn Kamil Hasan arrived in London 10 days ago to hold secret talks with Prince 'Ali, who had announced that he would work toward restoring monarchy in Iraq, being the closest to King Faysal II.

The sources said that during his visit Husayn Kamil also met with a number of Iraqi opposition figures who reside in Britain, such as Hamid 'Alwan al-Juburi, former Iraqi ambassador to Tunisia, and Hisham al-Shawi, former Iraqi ambassador to Canada — both of whom ran off and joined the opposition two years ago — as well as Salah 'Umar al-'Ali, a leader of the Iraqi National Democratic Accord.

The Iraqi opposition parties postponed their national conference scheduled for 8 September, because of disagreement among opposition members regarding coordination with Husayn Kamil.

In another development, AL-MUHARRIR learned that Husayn Kamil met with Saudi and Kuwaiti officials in London. But the content of these meetings remains a secret since no news of them has been leaked.

TV Carries Husayn Kamil 'Letter' to Saddam

JN1609201495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network
in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Sep 95

[Unscheduled announcement]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our dear viewers, greetings. We would not like to remind you of traitor Husayn Kamil's action, and what this action invokes in you of pain and disgust. However, abidance by the truth is more exalted both for God and our great people. Now, you will learn about a letter Husayn Kamil sent before his betrayal. He sent it to the leader president, may God watch over him, on 13 October 1994. This was last year when the crisis escalated with the U.S. Administration and some of its henchmen as a result their statements at the time that the Republican Guards forces' movements in southern Iraq were abnormal.

Any neutral observer does not need more than this letter, which was addressed by Husayn Kamil, to understand his true nature as a charlatan, and not as he tried to pretend that he has an independent opinion other than

that of the state, its regime, and leadership. In this letter, his true nature is exposed just as his true nature was exposed after his defection, in terms of weak and fickle personality, and contradiction in stands:

Mr. Leader President and great father, may God preserve you. O Sir, our great pride, honor, and only protector, we are delighted when we say that the world speaks about our unique, historic, and brave leader who taught them lessons which they deserve despite the fact that they have force and control the whole world, and despite their continued attempts to undermine Iraq's sovereignty. However, God willing, they will fail. They will talk about lifting the blockade. Some Arabs' faces are dusty and their hearts are sad. Their money, which they have spent and they spend everyday to please their masters, are to no avail. The most important thing is that they will speak about the leader president very frankly which they can no longer ignore. The world will become our supporter.

Dear Sir, by God, what counts is not that the blockade be lifted, but what counts is to see that the world mentions the name of your excellency everyday. Your prestige will increase every moment. I cannot describe to you myself when I see that the world is turning toward you. This is what we want, and, in fact, our hope is fulfilled. May God grant you success. Our souls are nothing for your excellency. Hearty greetings to you, Sir. We are your small children at your beck and call at all times and for anything. May God grant you success and preserve you. May God defeat the aggressors. May God preserve you for us and for this dear nation which is awaiting liberation at your hands, God willing. Praise be to God, O Dear Sir, O Great Sir.

[Signed] Staff lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan

[Dated] 13 October 1994

It was God's wisdom to expose Iraq's enemies by exposing this charlatan. And the unbelievers plotted and planned, and God too planned, and the best of planners is God. [Koranic verses]

Assembly Invites Foreign Guests to Referendum

JN1609193595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1653 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)—The National Assembly Arab and International Relations Committee has continued to extend invitations to Arab and foreign parliaments and to a number of parties and journalists to attend the popular referendum which will take place in Baghdad on 15 October.

In a statement to INA today Ghanim 'Aziz Khadduri, acting National Assembly speaker, said that the National

Assembly has sent many official invitations, in addition to personal invitations to some parliamentarians who have relations with the National Assembly and who are interested in the exercise of democracy.

The acting National Assembly speaker expressed his confidence that these invitations will receive a positive response, stressing that these invitations were extended to all sides, and that they were not confined to friends, whether they are with or against us, with the exception of the parliaments of the Zionist entity and Kuwait.

He stressed that the National Assembly is confident that the Iraqi people will say their word which they repeated over many years under the most difficult circumstances, and will say yes to leader Saddam Husayn when they cast their votes freely and in a democratic way. He said that this word will be a reply to the enemies' nonsense which is aimed at undermining Iraq's sovereignty and security.

Papers Comment on Upcoming Popular Referendum

Vote To 'Silence' U.S., Israel

JN1609092295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0720 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)—Two Iraqi newspapers have said that the Iraqi people believe deeply that President Saddam Husayn is the guarantee for the homeland's unity and future. The enemies wager on undermining this unity, they add.

In an article today by Ibrahim Tahir Sallam, secretary general of the Kurdistan Revolutionary Party, entitled "Popular Referendum National Day To Renew Allegiance," the newspaper AL-'IRAQ says: When the Iraqis participate in the popular referendum, they will assert to the whole world that they will renew their allegiance to the beloved leader Saddam Husayn.

The paper adds: The Iraqis will address the world on that day. They will say that their loyalty and love for, and belief in, Saddam Husayn will continue to run in their blood so long as they are alive.

AL-'IRAQ asserts that Saddam Husayn represents the symbol of values, nobility, dignity, pride, and national unity under the umbrella of the one Iraq. He is also the song of love the Iraqis will write down on the referendum cards, because his presence means that Iraq and the Arab Homeland will continue to be impregnable in the face of the enemies and the covetous evildoers.

The paper points out that during its glorious years, the victorious Iraqi march under President Saddam Husayn has realized splendid achievements which turned Iraq

into a lofty edifice that represents legendary construction and development in all walks of life.

In an article today entitled "Yes Today and Tomorrow," the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says that the U.S. propaganda machine has done its best to distort Iraq's image and national regime before public opinion in a way similar to brainwashing by fabricating lies, disseminating half-truths, and falsifying events.

The paper adds: It is no secret that this U.S. hostility was part of the unjust 30-state aggression which targeted Iraq and its people. However, facts about this aggression have been exposed, thus shaking the alleged credibility of U.S. media. The scandals of these media were officially and popularly revealed in various states.

AL-QADISIYAH continues: We, here in Iraq, have declared, and are declaring, our allegiance to President Saddam Husayn through our constant expression of loyalty and faithfulness to his leadership. Even under the blockade, our struggle for reconstruction and our endurance of the hard circumstances are considered as an unmatched allegiance.

The paper says: The Americans know this very well, which explains their concealed annoyance concerning this referendum, which will strip them of their malicious card. We will say yes to leader Saddam Husayn today and tomorrow in order to slap the U.S. tyrant in the face.

In another article today entitled "The Referendum Is an Advanced Formula of Democracy," AL-QADISIYAH, which is specialized in military affairs, says: Granting the entire Iraqi people the right to participate in a referendum to elect their leader is a proof of the democratic policy the Iraqi state is pursuing in its dealing with the people.

The paper adds: This referendum will be the reply to the enemies and rancorous ones, and it will also thwart the sedition, conspiracy, skepticism, and falsehoods created by the circles hostile to our people and nation. It is also a way to circumvent the conspiracy of perpetuating the blockade imposed on Iraq and curb the plot of fragmentation and trusteeship on which imperialism, Zionism, and Arab reaction are waging.

AL-QADISIYAH asserts that the referendum will also reveal the true democracy the Iraqi people are pursuing freely. This democracy will silence the imperialist and Zionist circles which boast democracy. In fact, these circles harm democracy and subject it to their domination, the paper adds.

'Constitutional Legitimacy' Tested

JN1709100695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0615 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the public referendum will be an important and qualitative step along the path of consolidating Iraq's democratic experience.

The paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in an article today that for over 25 years, the Iraqi people have been building a special democratic experience through which the individual has moved from a state of helplessness and denial of rights to a situation where he can build on the present and the future on a modern and dependable basis. Thus, the paper says, Iraq has gained control of its affairs, capable of exploiting its national wealth to make its national independent decisions.

The paper adds: Through a distinguished march of jihad, Iraq has emerged as a modern country thanks to the militant march of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

The paper says: The Iraqis have known President Saddam Husayn as a firm, brave leader, standing out as a unique and brilliant intellectual among the great intellectuals and leaders of history. The paper says that the Iraqis have witnessed the building of this lofty edifice with their leader moment by moment.

The paper says: The public referendum will be a chance for the the people and the state to move with leader Saddam Husayn to a new phase of constitutional legitimacy. It will also be a chance to renew allegiance to his excellency after the Iraqi people expressed in repeated spontaneous, crowded marches their love for their indispensable leader.

The paper adds: The Iraqis will prove in the free popular referendum that through their militant march they have established a firm political, social, economic, cultural, and psychological system and that they have not weakened despite the years of the blockade.

The paper stresses that the Iraqis today are stronger than ever before and that they adhere to the leader and symbol of their pride, honor, and new edifice.

Concluding its article, the paper says that the Iraqis will prove to the world that Iraq is Saddam Husayn, and that any attempt from any quarter to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs will be nipped in the bud, for Iraq's democratic march is not something conceived on the spur of the moment.

Referendum Said To Foil Embargo

JN1709125895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0900 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Sep (INA)—Two Iraqi newspapers have said that in the referendum on the post of the president of the republic, every Iraqi citizen will say yes to Saddam Husayn and no to the United States, Zionism, and all enemies of the Arab nation.

In an article today, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the hostile attempts to cause a rift between Iraq's leadership and people have been foiled one after another. Therefore, the only card left in their hands is the blockade, through which they are gleefully watching the suffering and criminal killing of the Iraqi people.

The paper stresses that the cruel blockade and the fierce aggression have not managed to make the Iraqis yield to the extortion of the U.S. propaganda machine, which is telling them that they should either rise against their leadership or they will continue to suffer a slow death under the continued blockade.

The paper says that this colonialist equation, which was set up by the Washington leaders, aims to humiliate the Iraqis and to force them to give up their free decisions and national principles. But this policy failed with Iraq, although it was successful with other peoples and states which even did not face one percent of what the Iraqis have faced.

The paper stresses that loyalty to Saddam Husayn has never been questionable or doubtful, except for the hostile forces viewing his excellency as a threat to their interests and illegal ambitions in Iraq's territory and wealth.

In an article published today under the headline "The Iraqi Referendum: Meanings and Indications," the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH stresses that contrary to what some may believe, referendums and democracy are not the outcome of Western civilization. Rather, they constitute the brightest aspect of the Arab nation's ancient history and deep-rooted civilization.

The paper says that the Iraqis need no one to poll them on a leader in whom they see their destiny, the honor of their women, and the future of their children. In fact, all they need is a response to bridle the tongues of liars capitalizing on democratic slogans accompanied by a flow of frenzied, distorted campaigns.

The paper stresses that the referendum will let the world know how much the Iraqis adhere to and care about a unified, ever-proud Iraq. This is because the referendum will be linked to values much deeper and much more comprehensive than direct human needs.

Saddam 'Does Not Need' Referendum

JN1809100495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network
in Arabic 0625 GMT 18 Sep 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "Studies" page of the newspaper AL-THAWRAH publishes two articles, the first by Mazhar 'Arif, and the second by Nawwaf Abu-al-Hayja'.

We have chosen the following excerpt from Mazhar 'Arif's article, which is entitled "A Vote for Saddam Husayn is a Vote in Favor of Democracy."

When it wagers on the future of the Iraqi regime and publicly calls for its ouster, the U.S. Administration shows utter absurdity and a shortsightedness that does not befit a superpower, particularly since the head of the regime which the United States is fighting and mobilizing armies against has put his future to a public referendum. He has been nominated to the post of president by the Revolution Command Council and the People's Assembly. Nonetheless, he wants to obtain the trust of the entire people.

As everybody inside and outside Iraq knows, Saddam Husayn does not hail from royal or feudal dynasties, nor does he hail from families of notables, or aristocratic or bourgeois classes; nor has he emerged from the mantle of old colonialists or neocolonialists, as is the case with some Arab and non-Arab rulers in the Third World. Moreover, he was not educated at U.S. or Western universities, but was raised in the midst of the agonies and hunger of the people. His skills were sharpened by the national struggle and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. This was done in the course of the fight against dictatorship, reaction, and subservience to external powers. Saddam Husayn has been engaged in political action as a struggler, and not as a political adventurer. He led his party and people to power. He obtained the legitimacy of leadership from the people and the Ba'th Party. That is why Saddam Husayn does not need a referendum on his presidency of the Republic of Iraq, particularly since his people and party have accorded him absolute and undying trust. Nonetheless, Saddam Husayn, who is well aware of all this, has sought to set an unfamiliar precedent in democracy inside and outside Iraq by putting the post of the president to a public vote. By so doing, he has ushered in the start of a large stride toward democracy, which will most likely have greater ramifications in the future.

Paper Calls For New Arab Relations

JN1709143495 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH
in Arabic 10 Sep 95 pp 1,2

["Viewpoint" column by Salah al-Mukhtar: "Has the Clock Struck for New Arab Awakening?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf's statements last Tuesday are no doubt a responsible and positive response to the statements made by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak about Iraq and what is taking place around it. Iraq, which has exploited and continues to exploit every positive sign to open its bosom to its Arab brothers, has picked up this positive initiative and responded to it by affirming its willingness to build new relations with all the Arab states without exception.

Whoever thinks that Iraq has welcomed the statements by President Hafiz al-Asad because it has more serious problems with the United States, is wrong for a number of reasons; mainly, Iraq's problems with the United States did not begin in August 1990, which was just another round, but officially in August 1988; and they continued to escalate until they reached the level of a third world war against Iraq. And, when military force failed to destroy Iraq and displace its people, the United States resorted to the embargo as a means to annihilate hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and to destroy Iraqi unity.

Other than this obvious U.S. position, there was nothing new to prompt Iraq to seek new Arab relations, not even the recent U.S. act of desperation by manipulating certain puppets, which it has kept for times of decisiveness and breaking of bones. In fact, we consider this development in Iraq's long-term interest, since it has rid Iraq of harmful insects, which keep boring into its basic structure.

Furthermore, we must not forget that Iraq's problems are not less serious or greater than those of the other Arab countries, whether on the political, economic, security levels. A simple glance will confirm that all Arab states face mortal threats, and that the difference is only in the timing, which the enemies have set for getting rid of the Arabs one by one. So, whoever thinks that only Iraq is threatened is completely mistaken. He and his country are also on the hit list. All it takes is a few months or years before the U.S. hangman switches his murderous and annihilation operations to the next target.

It has been tangibly proven that all the flexibility shown by the Arab sides, which seek peaceful solutions, has collided with a firm Zionist intransigence based on preserving illegitimate gains and refusing to return the occupied Arab territories, whether by opposing total

withdrawal or depriving the Arabs of their sovereign rights over their territories by one method or another. This problem is not less serious than Iraq's problem with the United States by any strategic standards.

And if we also take into consideration the fact that the main factor in all this Zionist intransigence is U.S. absolute support for the Zionist entity and U.S. refusal to deal with the Arab countries in any way which may indicate respect and recognition of their sovereign rights, we come to the clear conclusion that the real source of the problems facing Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and others is the United States. This calls for an urgent need to form a broad Arab pressure force consisting of all the Arab states and regimes which are interested in defending their treated sovereignty and national interest, even if the governments of these states pursue different and conflicting policies.

What unites the Arab states now is more than what divides them. The threat facing every Arab country without exception is disintegration or full colonization. The difference is only in the timing. Today, they are fighting Iraq, Algeria, Sudan, and Libya. Tomorrow, they will be fighting Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and others, whether the Iraqi way — that is, through a criminal embargo — or the Algerian way — that is, through a devastating civil war!

What we wish and hope for is that Arab regimes will not fall into the trap which seeks to convince certain Arab sides about U.S. and Israeli friendship and to make them acquiesce at the disintegration of an Arab country and the displacement of its people, and possibly participate in that. Then, the Arab governments would discover when it is too late that the United States had in fact dug graves for millions of citizens and officials in those countries whose governments had cooperated with the United States and showed good will to the Zionist entity.

Some people may ask: Why would the United States want to do that when some Arab governments are already giving it what it wants? The answer to this question has two parts: a practical part and a theoretical part. The practical part calls for looking at what the United States has given to the countries which have cooperated with it and comparing that with actual U.S. promises.

We still recall the well-written speeches U.S. President Bill Clinton made in Wadi 'Arabah in Jordan. We also recall his words when he met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat during the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and also in Cairo. Clinton made clear promises to turn the desert into a green paradise, resolve the problems between the

Arabs and the Israelis, restore stability, prosperity, and democracy to all the states of the region, etc..

Clinton tried to portray the United States as a country with an Alladin lamp, whose jinni could change everything momentarily. But what has happened? One year passed, then two, yet the region entered into a critical phase. Instability has increased, new economic crises have emerged in Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and Syria, and the so-called Middle East order has stumbled, although the United States has been and still is its sponsor!

What has happened? Is it a tacit admission of U.S. failure to honor its declared promises? Or, is it part of a tactic which every observer has begun to notice clearly — namely, U.S. purposeful intention to exacerbate and exploit existing crises instead of trying to resolve them, and to start new crises here and there in an attempt to create an environment which is more pliable and responsive to U.S. strategic and security needs?

The practical part of the answer calls on all Arab governments to investigate U.S. words and compare them with its deeds, since this will help us understand a significant fact — namely, that the United States is purposely escalating and maintaining crises, and even creating new ones and keeping them under control to achieve several aims: mainly, setting the stage for new regimes, borders, and faces in all the Arab countries so that cooperation with the Zionist entity would not be affected by past complexes whose effects and bitterness are still felt by the Arab and Israeli statesmen of yesterday and today.

And now we turn to the theoretical and strategic part of the answer and say that the United States is purposely breaking up the Arab countries one after the other, and setting the scene for such disintegration even in the countries which are currently cooperating with it, because the U.S. views the Arab homeland from two angles: First, the Zionist entity must be the dominant power in the region and that no Arab country should aspire to become its equal in any field. Second, the Arab countries should become mere economic or military centers or bases for the United States to be used in dominating the world through total control of the lifeline of modern societies — namely, oil, and canceling the concept of the state as far as the Arab countries are concerned.

We — that is, all the Arabs without exception — must not doubt for one moment that the United States sees us only as pawns in its current game to dominate the world, and that our role must in no way go beyond that of pawns or slaves. This is why the United States considers it essential to destroy all the bases of our independence and the defense of our sovereignty and to break up the

national unity of the Arab countries so that they become only protectorates seeking a protection umbrella and not sovereign states!

The U.S.-Israeli role in fomenting militant operations in Egypt and supplying certain elements with arms to fight the government is well known to the Egyptian authorities. The operations, which have been going on for years to break up Syria from within, are U.S. acts which are known to the Syrian Government. It is also obvious that U.S. and Israeli intelligence have been active for some time now in trying to undermine the power of Jordanian bedouins on whom the regime depends for its existence. They have also been trying to push Jordan to a strangulating economic crisis to narrow the Jordanian Government's options and to compel it to pursue an unfamiliar course. It is clear to everyone now that the United States has planned to make Jordan completely dependent on it and the Zionist entity and to compel it to sever its relations with the major Arab countries to clear the way as of now for the establishment of an alternative Palestinian homeland in Jordan, which is the plan of Ari'el Sharon. This U.S.-Zionist trend constitutes a real threat to the Jordanian entity. It must be confronted now through the option of Arab cooperation as the guaranteed basis for survival in the present era of hostile sharks.

When we look at Algeria and the regrettable incidents taking place in it, we see America's finger prints on the chaste bodies of the victims of violence among our innocent Algerian Arab brothers there. The United States wants to destroy all the material and political bases for the emergence of a strong Arab center in the Arab Maghreb corresponding to its fraternal center in the Arab Mashreq as represented by Iraq in its great awakening, which the United States has volunteered to destroy.

These practical and theoretical observations confirm beyond the shadow of a doubt that all Arab Governments, we repeat, all Arab governments, are on the hit list. Any senior Arab official who is not convinced of that would be lucky if he still kept his head on his shoulders after being thrown out of his country!

But Arab officials must not be under any delusion. They should ask their special agencies to provide them with full information about the relationship between the instigators of seditions and crises in the Arab homeland and U.S. and Zionist intelligence. It is only then that they will be able to pick the end of the thread and discover that it is the United States which is planning to wipe out the Arabs from the world map as a nation and states and turn them into humble servants. Even the

closest friends of the United States will not be spared, because the United States has no friends.

Our sincere call stems from the strong position of a party, which has faced a third world war alone and survived; a party which has faced the worst embargo in history and also survived and forged its way to the future. Therefore, we can continue our jihad alone. But, we admit that our jihad would result in less sacrifices and sufferings if our Arab brothers would also join us in the legitimate endeavor to defend Arab existence. This would also safeguard the Arab countries which have been singled out for destruction and foil the U.S.-Zionist plan.

Is this an Iraqi invitation to wage war on the United States? No. Whoever thinks so is either mad or biased. We in Iraq do not want war with anyone and do not contemplate one. In fact, our only obsession is the protection of Iraqi national existence, because it is the basic pillar for the protection of Arab national existence. The greater the number of Arab states cooperating with

us the more the United States is compelled to retreat and choose the language of dialogue instead of the language of force and war.

Therefore, we call for new Arab stands, which are not hostile to anyone, but are aimed at self-preservation, Arab interests, and the persuasion of others, especially the United States, that the Arabs are not a non-quantity or pawns which can be used and then discarded, but a basic and influential nation which has a voice and a role commensurate with its capabilities. The others must recognize this if they want stability for the world and the region.

If we, the Arabs, form a broad front for the preservation of the "Arab race," we would be able to call on our non-Arab neighbors to cooperate with greater force and influence.

Would that this serious, sincere Iraqi call found the positive response which is demanded by the higher pan-Arab interest of all Arabs?

Peres: U.S. Stressing Wrong Aspect on Syrian Track*TA1809101395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
18 Sep 95 p A1*

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres criticized the handling of the negotiations with Syria in a meeting with French President Jacques Chirac last week. Peres said the U.S. Administration was wrong in stressing the military aspect rather than the political one in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations. In the foreign minister's view, Israel should insist on raising the level of the talks with Syria. [passage omitted]

Special Consultations on 'Arafat-Peres Talks End*TA1509163795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1600 GMT 15 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The special consultation at the prime minister's bureau, convened in anticipation of the Peres-'Arafat meeting, has ended. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the participants voiced differing assessments of the chances of concluding the negotiations and initialing the agreement during the Peres-'Arafat meeting tomorrow.

The participants were briefed on the differences of opinion between Israel and the Palestinians over the water and electricity issues and the settlements. It transpires that the Palestinians are demanding that Area C, in which the settlements and military installations are located, be mapped out in detail in order to preclude the possibility of its being expanded in the future.

During the meeting, a sharp verbal clash broke out between Justice Minister David Liba'i and Foreign Ministry legal adviser Yo'el Singer. Prime Minister Rabin was infuriated by this argument and said their job is to reach an agreement and not indulge in legalistic hairsplitting.

Peres on New Hebron Proposal, 'Arafat's 'Difficulty'*TA1609131795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0800 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Udi Segal and moderator 'Adi Talmor on 16 September; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Segal] Good morning, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Shalom to you.

[Talmor] I assume you were glad to learn that the murderers of the young Palestinian man from Halhul, who have been captured by the security forces, are Palestinians and not Jews.

[Peres] It took a great load off my mind.

[Talmor] Almost on the eve of a signed agreement with the Palestinians, Mr. Peres, I would like to ask you why the government, which has been able to make so many courageous decisions over the past two years, does not have the courage to make one more: to move the Hebron Jews to another location, thereby preventing the friction and complications we can expect to continue there.

[Peres] Our negotiating philosophy has been that matters that lie between the government and the Jews will not be brought up for negotiation between us and the Palestinians. That was why we have consistently insisted that all issues pertaining to settlers and settlements are our exclusive responsibility, and that we would not discuss them with any outside element. We do not want any Israeli to say we are evacuating settlers because of Palestinian pressure, for instance. This decision has to be made by us alone.

[Segal] Do you estimate that the proposal you and the prime minister have drafted on Hebron, which you will present to 'Arafat tonight, is one the Palestinians will accept, one that will solve this dire problem?

[Peres] I do not wish to create expectations or cause disappointment. We will do our best. Hebron is an incomparably complex issue because of the composition of its population and because of the tension between the two populations. In Hebron the tension is higher and population dispersion more confused than anywhere else. [passage omitted]

[Talmor] When you were working out the proposal you are about to submit to 'Arafat, you must have had some indication that the Palestinians would accept it.

[Peres] They have no idea what we are going to propose.

[Talmor] None?

[Peres] No. No one has any idea.

[Talmor] And you do not know how they will respond?

[Peres] No.

[Segal] Do you think it is now a matter of 'Arafat's making a decision — namely, that if he wants to conclude the agreement tonight, it will be signed this week?

[Peres] No leader has full freedom of action; they only have that in fairy tales. 'Arafat's problem is how

to ensure that the residents of Hebron are able to participate in the elections, that they do not boycott them, and that they do not vote against him. The Palestinian population of Hebron is also extremely radical. 'Arafat and his associates claim that nearly 600,000 residents of Judea and Samaria — although the number may be exaggerated — hail from Hebron in one way or another. They claim, for instance, that numerous residents of East Jerusalem, Ramallah, and many other places are somehow connected with Hebron. They believe, therefore, that if Hebronites boycott the elections, it will deal a mortal blow to the prospects of establishing a democratic Palestinian country [eret] or rule. This is 'Arafat's difficulty. He does not need to be personally convinced; he has to be convinced to an extent that will enable him to persuade the Palestinian public.

[Segal] We have just heard that the Palestinians have reneged on the water agreement and are again demanding a discussion of their historic rights.

[Peres] There is quite a long list of outstanding issues, including water, we will have to discuss tonight.

[Segal] Do you know yet when and where the meeting will take place? We have heard there is an argument.

[Peres] We are working on the assumption it will be in Taba after the Sabbath is over. We will drive to Ben-Gurion Airport to take a flight to Taba, but if we receive a last-minute Egyptian request to change the venue to the Egyptian capital or to Alexandria, we will consider it. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 16 September adds: "The Peres-'Arafat meeting will be held in Taba. This was decided within the last hour. The Palestinians exerted pressure to hold the meeting in Cairo, while Israel said it should be held in Taba because the site is more convenient. To repeat, within the last hour the sides reached an agreement to hold the meeting in Taba. This was told to our correspondent Shlomo Raz by the foreign minister's bureau."]

Further on Peres Comments

TA1609190995 *Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Sep 96*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Dan Scemama at Ben-Gurion Airport — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Scemama] Sir, you are about to depart for a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. I understand this meeting may last several days. Do you intend to return from Taba with an initialed agreement?

[Peres] Look, we are fighting against time. We do not have too much time because of our holidays and other dates that are important to the Americans and Palestinians. We will make a supreme effort to finalize the controversial issues.

[Scemama] You will arrive in Taba with new proposals regarding Hebron. Is it possible that the time constraints and the new proposals will result in too many concessions on Israel's part?

[Peres] Let me clarify one thing: I am not carrying any compromise proposals on anything relating to the security of Israel and Israelis. Throughout the negotiations we have been unequivocal, clear, and firm on this issue. At the same time, if we can enable the residents of Hebron to participate in the elections, this is what should be done, because this is both their and our interest. We are sincerely interested in the establishment of a democratic Palestinian entity. We do not want to push the Hebronites out of the elections framework, and have made a supreme effort to bridge the gap between these two needs without conceding any of them, certainly not the one dealing with the security of Israelis.

[Scemama] Sir, I take it that you intend to attain the initialing of the agreement, which means that the next meeting will be held in Washington for the purpose of signing the agreement. I understand that there will be no meeting between Rabin and 'Arafat in between.

[Peres] No, there is no time for such a meeting, and I am not convinced there is a need for such a meeting, because the prime minister and I are fully coordinated. We will not travel to Washington without an initialed agreement. We will not come to Washington for carrying on the negotiations and arguments there. If the Palestinians stick to what they have been saying, namely that their main problem is Hebron — although I want to note here that there are quite a few problems that have to be solved tonight or tomorrow....

[Scemama, interrupting] Such as the issues of prisoners, electricity, and water?

[Peres] Prisoners, electricity, water, the council, and various other legal problems. There is no shortage of problems. Hebron will be at the center of the talks, but we also have a vital interest, namely, that the cities that we hand over to the Palestinian Authority do not become cities of refuge. This is the main issue for us tonight.

[Scemama] Mr. Foreign Minister, you are departing to Taba for a meeting that may last one, two, or three days. Perhaps the meeting will end successfully, thus paving the way for the Washington meeting. Thank you very much and good luck.

[Peres] Thank you.

**Japanese Prime Minister Murayama Pays Visit
Arrives in Jerusalem**

OW1709012995 Tokyo KYODO in English
0119 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Sept. 16 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama flew into Jerusalem from Damascus on Saturday [16 September] night on the fourth leg of his weeklong five-nation Middle East trip.

Murayama is the first incumbent Japanese prime minister to visit Israel.

He is scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Sunday and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat on Monday in Gaza, which was brought under Palestinian self-rule last year.

Murayama will discuss the Middle East peace process with Rabin and 'Arafat, Japanese officials said.

Later on Monday the Japanese prime minister will go to Jordan to meet King Husayn before leaving for Japan that night.

Before flying into Israel, Murayama visited Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria.

Meets Weizman, Pledges Aid

OW1709113695 Tokyo KYODO in English
1113 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Sept. 17 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama pledged humanitarian aid for the Palestinian self-rule areas in talks with Israeli President Ezer Weizman on Sunday [17 September], Japanese officials said.

"We hope to facilitate autonomy negotiations by providing humanitarian aid to stabilize the lives of the Palestinian people," Murayama was quoted as telling Weizman. He also expressed hopes that Israel and the Palestinians will conclude ongoing negotiations over expanded self-rule at an early date.

Weizman welcomed the Japanese aid pledge, noting that it is important to improve the Palestinians' living conditions and to better their economic situation.

Murayama, the first incumbent Japanese premier to visit Israel, flew to Jerusalem from Damascus on Saturday night on the fourth leg of a weeklong five-nation Middle East trip that also covered Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria.

He is scheduled to meet with his Israeli counterpart Yitzhaq Rabin later Sunday and Palestine Liberation

Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat on Monday in Gaza, which was brought under Palestinian self-rule last year.

Later on Monday the Japanese prime minister will go to Jordan to meet King Husayn, before leaving for Japan that night.

Says al-Asad Ready To Resume Talks

TA1709184695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1700 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Japan will open a branch of its Exports Institute in Israel. Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, on a visit to Israel, told Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that this is a message to the Japanese business community and Tokyo's vote of confidence in the improving bilateral economic links. Murayama urged the canceling of the Arab boycott, and promised that his country will invest in regional projects in a bid to further the peace process.

Mr. Rabin accepted Murayama's request to support Japan's candidacy for a permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

The guest promised to raise the issue of Ron Arad with Iran, and that of the Israeli MIA's from the Lebanon war with Syria.

Prime Minister Rabin proposed that Japan participate in the building of bridges on the Jordan River, and sources in Murayama's entourage confirm Japan's intention to do so. This is reported by our correspondent Gid'on Remez.

[Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 17 September, in a related report, adds: "Our political editor Gadi Sukenik notes that Murayama has brought with him a message from President al-Asad in which he says that he is willing to resume the negotiations with Israel."]

Denies Syrian Nuclear Deal

TA1809102195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 18 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Alon Pinkas]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Visiting Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama told Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is disappointed with the current state of the peace process and believes it is an impasse resulting from Israel's positions, diplomatic sources said last night.

However, Murayama told Rabin that al-Asad seems to be intent on continuing the negotiations and is aware of the economic benefits of peace.

Murayama, who arrived from Damascus Saturday night, began a two-day visit in Israel and the Palestinian autonomous area, the first by a Japanese prime minister.

At a state dinner last night, Rabin described the visit as "a new page in the history of relations between the two countries."

"We value your support of the peace process and your willingness to assist those involved in the process could be a very beneficial blessing to the entire Middle East," he said in a ceremonious welcome reception for Murayama.

Japan, which gave \$200 million to the Palestinian Authority over the past two years, recently agreed to provide an additional \$200 million over the next two years.

"We wish to make further contributions to the Middle East peace process.... Peace and stability in this region are essential for the prosperity of the entire world," Murayama, who will visit the Gaza Strip today, said.

Rabin also noted Japan's growing trade with Israel, noting that the two countries exchange commodities worth \$2 billion. Israeli imports total \$963 million (mainly cars) a year and exports to Japan amount to \$982 million. In 1994, Japan replaced Britain as Israel's second largest trade partner after the U.S.

The official meeting between the two dealt not only with economics, but also with Murayama's trip to Syria. According to a diplomatic source, Murayama did not relay any message from al-Asad, but conveyed his observations on the peace process.

Murayama told Rabin that he received the impression that al-Asad is dissatisfied with the current status of the peace process and is disappointed with Israel's positions.

Rabin, the source said, explained in detail Israel's positions vis-a-vis Syria and elaborated on current negotiations with the Palestinians. Murayama confirmed to Rabin that next year Japan will dispatch 77 soldiers to the Golan Heights as part of a UN observer force. [passage omitted]

While Murayama refrained from visiting Orient House, Deputy Foreign Minister Shuji Yanai did. He met with Faysal al-Husayni.

Yanai also denied that Japan intends to sell Syria a nuclear reactor, and said that his country agreed to sell Syria a fully equipped hydroelectric power station.

Government Urged To Raise Iran Issue With Murayama

TA1709082395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 17 Sep 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Japan and Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visit of Japanese prime minister to Israel is no less welcome for being long overdue. Israel's importance to mighty Japan will always be limited, but it is good to see Tokyo demonstrating that its compliance with the Arab boycott is over. Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's visit, which follows Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's trip to Tokyo last year, is an important sign that Israel at last has a firm place in Japan's foreign policy.

Murayama's whirlwind tour of the Middle East is mainly concerned with trade and economics, but it is also a reminder that we shall soon witness the extraordinary sight of Japanese soldiers on the Golan Heights, as Tokyo decided last month to send troops to the Middle East for the first time. The 50-strong contingent will be part of the UN disengagement observer force, and will arrive in February for a two-year tour of duty.

The presence of the troops will spark new public awareness of the region and its problems in Japan, and the venture is seen as a key part of the country's wider campaign to gain a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Given this economic giant's increasing willingness to take a part in world affairs commensurate with its importance, Israel has a duty of equal importance to take up its concerns about Japan's relations with Iran.

If there is any connection, however remote, between Japan and the deaths of Israelis in south Lebanon or in our city streets, then Iran is that connection. For the past 40 years, Japan's single-minded preoccupation with commercial prosperity, and its belief that close relations with Israel would threaten regular supplies of Middle Eastern oil and paralyze its industry, militated against the normalization of relations the two countries have now reached.

But a reluctance to face realities over the terrorist state of Iran may cloud Japan's relations with Israel — as it has relations with the United States. Japanese funds have for years been the only official money Iran has been given by a Group of Seven donor. Japan is also Iran's second-largest trading partner after Germany. And it has assisted Iran in the construction of various huge projects, including hydroelectric power stations, financed by Japan with little Iranian participation.

Japan's reasons for granting Iran generous soft loans are indeed complex but the government here must make clear to Murayama's entourage that assistance to Iran is viewed with great displeasure. True, the second phase of a Japanese Overseas Development Aid loan to Tehran has been frozen for nearly 18 months, but Japan is still hoping to argue for defrosting it, rather than stopping it, when Murayama meets President Bill Clinton in October. Japan still makes the excuse that Iran is a vital and major supplier of its oil. This is not so — the Iranian proportion of its oil dropped from 37 percent in 1972 to below 10 percent a decade later, and is even lower today.

If Japan is going to take a responsible world role, with the support of countries like the United States, the Europeans and Israel, it must take an equally responsible attitude to the world boycott against Iran. Of course, no one suggests Japanese yen directly fund Hizballah or Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorism — but every dollar Iran is given in aid or commercial profit frees up another dollar from its domestic coffers for its nefarious projects of subversion overseas.

Iraqi Family Seeks Asylum, Returned to Jordan

TA1709062295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An Iraqi family of three crossed the border from Jordan yesterday. They asked for political asylum. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the three were detained, questioned, and then returned to Jordan last night.

Chief of Staff Shahaq Escapes Hizballah Bomb Blast

NC1709191895 Paris AFP in English
1843 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Sept 17 (AFP) — Israeli army chief of staff General Amnon Shahaq narrowly escaped a bomb attack claimed by Hizballah in an occupied border zone in south Lebanon that wounded two soldiers Sunday [17 September], the army said.

It said the general drove by just minutes before the roadside blast wounded the soldiers on patrol near the town of Marj 'Uyun, it said. He was headed to the town where an allied militia has its headquarters.

The army said earlier that two soldiers were wounded by a bomb triggered by remote-control and taken by

helicopter to Israeli hospital. A third soldier was treated on the spot, the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia said.

The Iranian-backed Hizballah said it carried out the attack — the first this month on Israeli troops in Israel's self-declared "security zone," which is patrolled by SLA and Israeli forces.

Arabs Held in Halhul Murder; Criminal Motive Noted

TA1609130495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0800 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Palestinians, not Jews, are being held as suspects in the Halhul murder case. Early this morning, the Shin Bet and Israel Police detained four Palestinian residents of Halhul, who are suspected of the murder of Halhul resident Salman Za'marah about two weeks ago. The detainees include a former Arab policeman, who had been employed by Israel Police in the territories, and two twin brothers. The motives for the murder were criminal. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 16 September adds that the murder took place "in the course of a holdup." The report adds that "three suspects in their 30's, who have criminal records, were detained last night," and that while "the identity of the fourth member of the gang is known, he has not yet been apprehended."]

Here are a few reactions to the report: Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah says that if it is established that Palestinian criminals carried out the murder, it will be further proof that Palestinian police should be deployed in the Hebron area. Al-Natshah told our territories correspondent Golan Yokhpaz that the Palestinians had never sought to blame Jews for the murder of the Palestinian from Halhul until two radical right-wing movements claimed responsibility for it.

Qiryat Arba' resident Elyaqim Ha'etzni, one of the leaders of the Action Committee for the Annulment of the Autonomy Plan, told our correspondent that it was pointless to criticize the left for rushing to accuse settlers of the murder, because marginal movements, such as EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem] and the Sword of David, took the heinous step of claiming responsibility for the murder.

King Husayn Discusses Iraq With Journalists

JN1709103595 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic at 1730 GMT 16 Sep 95

[News conference by King Husayn with domestic journalists at the Royal Court in Amman on 16 September]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Husayn] I welcome you again to this house of yours. I am pleased to meet with you again, and to honor the media family in Jordan from time to time by speaking with them about all issues. This is a continuation of our policy that seeks to keep you informed of current developments. Frankly, I hope that you will also seek on your own to learn the truth, since you are media men.

The media personnel should be aware of the great role they play in this country, which has a position on all issues. Jordan's stands are always meant to serve the nation and to carry out its duty toward its kin and brothers in its greater nation. Jordan also seeks to set an example for our Arab brothers, and even beyond the Arab nation. When we blame you, this stems from the great hopes we pin on you. I think we should do some soul-searching. We should admit that on the media level, we have been losing many battles as a result of the confusion we notice. This is despite the fact that I personally — and all state officials — are very close to you. In brief, all I hope for is more efforts from all the brothers so we can rise to the occasion and perform our duties in the face of breaking developments.

There has been much talk about fraternal Iraq. Politicians in this country began to talk a lot about Iraq and to give many interpretations, whether those people are professionals or amateurs. Much has been said about the stand of the Jordanian public. I would like to say here that I have great confidence in the awareness of the Jordanian public, perhaps more than anyone else in this country. The Jordanian public has been mobilized to support Iraq. I am happy that this is the case, because if we look at the issue objectively and sincerely, we will find that I played a major role in mobilizing support for the Iraqi people in all the battles they waged and in all the ordeals they went through.

It is not strange that the people are with Iraq. It is not strange that I am with Iraq because I have always been with it under all circumstances. I consider Iraq our strategic depth [as heard] and our brother. Its beginnings and our beginnings here in Jordan were the same beginnings on all levels. It stemmed from the Great Arab Revolt, along with its army and position. It has always been with us, and we have always been with it.

In 1958, what happened has happened and we had accepted it with an open mind. This is because the

Iraqis have the right to opt for the road they want. We had dressed our wounds and overcome our pains completely. We wished Iraq all that is good. We have always been with Iraq under the difficult circumstances. This is despite the fact that it used to surprise us, or the developments used to surprise us from time to time through an unexpected development. An example of this was the war with Iran and the invasion of Kuwait. We have always given advice and expressed our opinion. Perhaps, most of the time, we have exceeded our limits in expressing our opinion. This is because we were not in a position allowing us to express our opinion or to be consulted about an important issue regarding these developments we and Iraq have experienced, and which have affected us and our entire Arab world. Praise be to God, we were sincere to ourselves and to our brothers and people under all circumstances. I do not know on what grounds those who say that the picture is now different or that the stand has changed base their arguments.

Let me go back to my statements and to my meetings with you. All my attention has been devoted during the past period to the Iraqi people, to Iraq's unity, to safeguarding Iraq's borders, and to having this tribulation of the foreign embargo, which has continued for too long, lifted.

Of course, we, in Jordan, opted for the road which we have not changed. It is the road of continuing aid and support for Iraq on the humanitarian level — food, medicines, and whatever is possible within the maximum of what we can offer. It is a shame to talk about figures. All our brothers have done favors for us. However, in figures, what these people and this country have given deserve to be appreciated, at least, by all people. Iraq owes us \$1.1 billion. I do not think that you heard that we have ever grumbled. You have heard how we sometimes find difficulty in writing off our debts. It is said to us that you are also indebted. This is true, but you also have obligations that are much greater than your resources. What we used to endure was a duty which we have performed and which we will continue to perform.

As for the issue of oil, it is our right, and we continue to make it available. The duty of this leadership and this country, not with respect to the recent developments but in all circumstances, is to always look for alternatives to secure the needs of its sons and people concerning energy and any other strategic product.

With respect to the talk on borders, the borders are open, and there has been no intention, not even for one moment, to close them. With respect to the issue of importing oil, this is our right toward what we have

offered. I believe matters in the future will continue as they are. But we should search in case we face any unexpected surprise, or the alternative must be ready so that this country may not suffer from an interruption in oil as was the case in 1958. Those with gray hair among us recall that experience.

The search for an alternative is not to replace what exists with something new, but as a precaution to counter any eventuality.

In my recent statements to some of our brother Arab journalists, I emphasized to all that I have no personal ambition for any position in Iraq. So long as I live, I will remain proud of belonging to this country and of the love, amity, and trust that has been established between me and this people which enabled us to achieve much on this long and arduous road.

On the other hand, Iraq is threatened as a result of the perpetuation of this state of affairs from which it suffers. The picture that was communicated to us on its domestic situation is not a comforting or pleasant picture in any way. If we are concerned about Iraq, we should go back to what I repeatedly said on the need to reach a national reconciliation among the three major elements in Iraq that will eliminate existing fears among them. It goes without saying that pluralism must be respected and a situation must be reached where the Iraqi individual would enjoy his legitimate right as all other human beings in this world. Democracy is a must. This is if we want to offer advice or perform a duty for a fraternal people who have suffered and continue to suffer. If this tribulation lasts, it might lead, God forbid, to a dismemberment of Iraq and to its ceasing to exist in the form we know.

Brothers, every one of you, me included, has heard much about what is taking place until matters have been clarified following recent events. This tormented me because in all cases and circumstances I have stood against besieging Iraq and making it suffer in this manner. I used to refrain from talking about what takes place in Iraq. We used to say that there are exaggerations, and talk that is unsubstantiated by facts until these facts became clear to us. The pain of conscience was caused by our commiseration for Iraq. We continue to ask ourselves: Have we really carried out our duty in all fields to save this fraternal country and this people who deserve a free and dignified life? They have the same rights as all the other people in this world.

Let us speak about our internal situation, the National Charter and the long months for drafting it and its articles, on which we all agree—democracy, pluralism, freedom, human dignity, and human rights which we

always advocate. For anyone of us to say at any moment what can be interpreted in a manner that shows that we accept this for ourselves and do not accept it for our brothers in the greater Arab homeland, this means that our talk is nonsense, baseless, and is not based on conviction by anyone of us concerning what we say.

What we seek to realize for ourselves, what we like for ourselves we should like for our brothers. Just as we defend our rights, we should also defend the rights of our brothers. The only thing we want is that Iraq remain united. This cannot take place without national reconciliation, democracy, political pluralism, respect for pluralism and human rights. We pray to God that this will take place soon because the night of waiting and torture for this fraternal and dear people has lasted too long. Here, you see that I did not change my policy or positions. Refer to the statements I made years ago and you will find the same thing.

I emphasize again that I do not have any ambition or objective other than that, not only Iraq but that the whole Arab nation, would be in a better situation, and that we wish for ourselves what we wish for others. None of us can ignore such a tragedy which a fraternal people are experiencing.

I think that by this we covered the subject of fraternal Iraq. Our country has always been the refuge for the freemen and those with living conscience, and all those who come to our country find care and protection from all its people. This has been our position, and Jordan had been based on this since the Great Arab revolt and its values. Jordan has been the homeland of several people who came to this country and found themselves among their kinsfolk, brothers, and clan. The fact that they chose Jordan, was evidence of the credibility of this country and the trust people have in it. Praise be to God for all of this.

As for the internal situation, praise be to God, we are preparing for the economic summit next month. By the way, all the brothers remember that before the Casablanca summit, there was talk about a possible meeting here, but we were not prepared yet and the treaty had not been signed then. After we restored our land, water, and rights and signed the treaty, then the beginning was here. What we hope from this conference, for which we are preparing, is to serve the objective of realizing a comprehensive progress, not only in Jordan but in the whole region amid the new encouraging and promising atmospheres and in a situation that concentrates on the individual, the energies within him, the resources available in our land and people and the Arab people everywhere, and the region as a whole, so that there will be a real jump

toward the promising future, for the future generations. God willing, we will always be remembered well. We are optimistic and hopeful that the meeting will be successful and its results will be fruitful, God willing.

One more thing I forgot to mention. Much has been said about pressure being put on Jordan, whether regarding Iraq or other issues. I would like to stress here — hopefully for the last time — that there is no pressure. There never has been. The people in this country know that we do not yield to pressure and that we act on the basis of our convictions and what we think is in the interest of our people, nation, and brothers. Accusing others hastily of putting pressure on us diminishes our worth in this country and harms our credibility. We did not yield to pressure under the most difficult circumstances, so how can we yield to pressure now? We are always inspired by our convictions and seek always to achieve peace of mind. We hide nothing from you. Our doors are open, and you can contact us and contact any official. I have high hopes that we will propagate what we hope will be our situation and that of others in our Arab nation. I hope that we will reflect a true picture of our good, educated people who were hardened by experience and that we will fulfill our duties toward them in the best way possible.

This is almost all I have to say and I want to listen to your remarks and answer your questions to the best of my knowledge and belief. Welcome again. I hope that we will arrive at a situation which we hope for. It is strange that we should meet and talk to each other under these circumstances and in this open manner. If there is some blame from time to time, from what I have said to you, perhaps this is evidence of the freedom of the press in our country and that the press is not controlled, as some of our brothers believe. God's peace and mercy be upon you.

[George Hawatimah, chief editor of JORDAN TIMES] Regarding Iraq, apparently there is no change in Jordan's position. Your Majesty: You have always called for more efforts to have the Iraq embargo lifted and to help the Iraqi people, saying that Jordan would do its best in this regard. At the same time, Jordan cannot disregard the suffering of Iraq and the fact that there is no democracy and pluralism and that the domestic situation in Iraq is difficult. In addition, Iraq is an important neighbor and our strategic depth [as heard] and we have historic ties with it.

The question is how can Jordan act to achieve a strategic objective and help the Iraqi people end their suffering without interfering in Iraq's internal affairs and without acting on the level of the region? The question, at least for me, is difficult to answer. What can Jordan do under

the current circumstances? I am not trying to justify the position of journalists here or in other countries, but this is the question we have. What can we do and how can we go about doing whatever we can do so as to achieve our strategic objectives without being accused of interfering in the internal affairs of others? Your Majesty: No doubt, you have an answer to this puzzling question. I do not know how we can deal with this question. Our people are also asking. It is a legitimate right to view the situation in Iraq and conclude that something must be done, even if this is confined to approximating views among the three parties in Iraq and achieving reconciliation. Perhaps, this will also be viewed as interference in Iraq's internal affairs. This is a dilemma for many people. Could you please tell us how we can help Iraq, since this is a strategic, legitimate objective for our country and people because it will have a direct effect on us.

[Husayn] If I had an answer, we would probably have done what is required and not reached this situation. The important point I would like to stress is that we support the Iraqi people and their right to life. We support the Iraqi people's national unity. We support the Iraqi individual's rights, as part of human rights, to a secure, decent life. We support national unity and pluralism.

If the question had been one of our wishes, the picture would have been different. I agree with you that it is necessary at least to shed light on reality to achieve the result we wish. By the way, we suffered more than others from interference in our domestic affairs. The strange thing is that those who are accusing us of interfering in the internal affairs of others are probably masters of interference in the internal affairs of their brothers near or far in this region. Let us interpret the uproar being raised over Jordan's position. This is my question. Explain it to me in any way. This country has always been for its kinsfolk and brothers throughout the greater homeland. Why does this fear of it exist? Is it hampering the endeavors of others to try to attain anything? Is Jordan committing a mistake when it speaks about the unity of Iraq and preserving its territorial integrity? Is Jordan committing a crime when it speaks about national reconciliation in Iraq in the face of fears of a bloodbath or of anything that may occur in Iraq as a result of the Iraqi citizen's fear from his Iraqi brothers? So, is it not our duty to urge discussions on the issue of national reconciliation by representatives of these three components in Iraq and to speak about pluralism, democracy, and other issues in light of the past years, the blockade, and the suffering.

Several months ago, I announced that this world should reveal the influential forces in it. This is the issue of

the regime in Iraq, and it is considered an interference in international affairs. At least, let us know the facts and let the Iraqi people also know them. We have always called for dialogue and contacts, and we gave the example of Haiti and how the Security Council prepared armies to intervene to preserve democracy or revive it. At the last moment, political figures were sent there to meet with competent officials. The result was that the process took place without bloodshed. Why is there not dialogue in this case? This has been our position, which we have always projected. We have not stopped our defense of Iraq and its right to life over these past years. Of course, factors affected Iraq's credibility.

Regarding the issue of the weapons and the weapons of mass destruction, for example, Iraq used to say that it had not possessed a certain weapon or that it had not developed it. But then it took another position. These matters are still going on. This position has prolonged the suffering. I have told our Iraqi brothers who visited Jordan I was afraid that the problem would not be confined to the weapons of mass destruction because answers about the Kuwaitis missing in Iraq are being sought. I personally asked Baghdad several times for such an answer, which I did not receive. In addition, there are other resolutions on human rights in the north and the south. How long will the suffering of the people last in this way? And where are they being pushed? Maybe they are being pushed toward extremism or despair, although Iraq is a rich country in water, energy, and other resources. Moreover, it has its history and its living people.

This is one part of the picture; tribulation with respect to the outside, and the pressure that is brought to bear. Also, is the situation in Iraq the one hoped for so that we can speak, discuss, and propose? Can the situation be sound without reaching, in one way or the other, national reconciliation and all the objectives I mentioned? Is it our duty to remain silent on these facts and on this state of affairs, or should our concern for Iraq, our Arab nation, and the entire region, and our duty to our brothers dictate us to say something? There is another example which has nothing to do with Iraq. How many times have we said that any Palestinian, wherever he may be in the Arab homeland, if he chooses to stay where he is in view of the difficult living conditions he experiences or has experienced, why can't he get the citizenship of this part of his larger homeland if he so wishes, and to have the same rights as others? Why is it easy for the Arab individual to emigrate from this region and be able to [become naturalized] in a specific period of time by far less than the period the Palestinians have lived in their Arab homeland, and get the citizenship of the side he has chosen?

We cannot go on tackling our affairs with different yardsticks. We should state what is wrong and what is right if we decide to serve, progress, and perform our duty in a sound manner, and if we want to enhance our credibility with our people and the rest of the world.

Are there no mistakes being committed in our Arab homeland? We are still experiencing a specific state of affairs with respect to some Palestinians who have been tossed on the borders and who are not accepted by any country, just because they are Palestinians. It is a shame to speak of this out of concern, perhaps, over Arab relations?

Brothers, of what value is life if a man has no conscience, and tackles issues with the same yardstick? Until when and at whose expense? Our religion even dictates us to correct a mistake if we see it. This cannot be viewed as interference in the domestic affairs of any party. If you see your brother on the verge of falling from a steep cliff, your duty is to speak and to express your opinion, and to prevent him from falling.

I do not have a magic solution. God willing, we all have live consciences enabling us to do what we feel and what we believe in for the good of our nation and future generations.

[Abd-al-Wahhab al-Zughaylat, Al-RA'Y deputy chief editor] Sir, we recently heard of attempts to form new axes in the region. This followed what was said [word indistinct]

[Husayn] Sir, [words indistinct] deal with it.

[Al-Zughaylat] Sir, this [word indistinct] has coincided with an unjust media campaign against us. In reality, we and they know that their houses are made of glass. Does your majesty believe that this [words indistinct] when they lose their balance, or is there an insistence to marginalize Jordan?

[Husayn] I believe that there is much insistence to marginalize Jordan, and there is a feeling that this Jordan, by itself, is a problem or an anomalous phenomenon because it stood fast, because it remained on its course and path, because it was patient, progressed in spite of the scarce resources, and the difficulties it encountered and the tragedies it suffered and remained in the forefront. Why should Jordan have a role? I always used to tell you and I firmly believe this, that our role is bigger than our size, bigger than the piece of land on which we are, and that the role comes from faith, loyalty, and placing supreme interests above all considerations, not to mention the courage to say the truth and give service without ulterior motives.

As for axes, we are not in axis with anyone. We do not believe in the axes policy. We seek to realize integration, understanding, love. We want these things to be part of our life, and to work for what is good for our nation and for its present and future. We want to respect one another, and we want the smallest member of this Arab group to have the same right which the largest of its countries has. Had we followed this path a long time ago, perhaps, our situation would have been completely different from the present situation. Let them say what they want.

[Faysal al-Shubul, AL-DUSTUR] Your Majesty, the defection of Husayn Kamil to Jordan [words indistinct] the whole issue and its dimension [words indistinct] there is nothing from outside [words indistinct] It is clear that quarters [words indistinct] Your Majesty, are you satisfied that there is the minimum of Arab solidarity at this stage, or that this will be realized in the near future.

[Husayn] We should work to realize this. The picture has changed gradually for the better, God willing.

[Dr. Fahd al-Fanik, AL-RA'Y] Sir, as for the quadruple meeting which discusses the issue of refugees and displaced, or the displaced in particular, it is clear that this committee will lead nowhere it seems because Israel is procrastinating and is changing the subject to an issue of identifying who is displaced. Do we have the means to change the subject to a serious situation because we accepted the treaty on the basis that the subject of displaced will be discussed in accordance with international laws and resolutions, which means the return of the displaced. Now, according to the Israeli view, there is no return. The mere delay for two months, and then for four months [sentence incomplete as heard] Shouldn't we have a specific position so that we will be able to face Israel because it will not give us anything without something in return.

[Husayn] Dr., do you want to adopt the position of a certain sisterly state toward our Palestinian brothers? We are one family and one hand, and when the circumstances are ripe, he who chooses to leave us will be welcome.

[Al-Fanik] They refuse the right to chose.

[Husayn] Who are they?

[Al-Fanik] The Israelis.

[Husayn] The quadruple meeting was supposed to discuss the subject of those who were displaced after 1967 if I am correct. This was what we used to call for. So far, nothing has taken place of the sort that I heard regarding this subject. We are discussing the subject, but

the delay comes from several directions for different reasons; probably because some people are busy with other issues. However, we will not forget this subject, and we should concentrate on it. God willing, the results will be good.

[Unidentified AL-SABIL correspondent] First of all, I thank His Majesty for this meeting. I am one of those who live in this country who felt after Husayn Kamil's defection that there is a change.

[Husayn] What?

[AL-SABIL correspondent] That there is a change in the Jordanian position as a result of the media coverage of the subject, whether the local or foreign media. I am one of those who understood—of course we do not have information other than what we hear from the media—that the Jordanian priority has changed from lifting the siege on the Iraqi people to toppling the Iraqi regime. This is the responsibility of the media and not my responsibility for understanding this. The other point concerns reconciliation. You spoke about reconciliation between three parties that are the components of Iraq. What is the role of the current Iraqi regime in this reconciliation especially since there is talk that Jordan may work to reconcile the Iraqi regime with the opposition although it is not easy to deal with the Iraqi opposition due to its multiple allegiances and leanings, and we in Jordan adopted a neutral position in dealing with the opposition over the past years? The second point...

[Husayn, interrupting] They have become 50 points. [laughter]

[AL-SABIL correspondent] We consider ourselves at home, so one can speak as he wishes. After the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, talk was that the settlement has become a stick in the wheels of democracy. Several things have taken place which gave this impression. Can we deny this now?

[Husayn] The settlement is a stick in the wheels of democracy?

[AL-SABIL correspondent] This means that it obstructs democracy.

[Husayn] Reconciliation and peace have never been a stick in the wheels of democracy. All that has taken place in this country, if we recall the past and its events in the region and the world, was based on the public and large meeting that was attended by all elected people in this country and in which we decided to go to Madrid. We provided the umbrella for our Palestinian brothers so that they would be able to speak about their right, land, soil, and their full rights as they wish in accordance

with the Rabat summit conference's resolutions. They reached the agreement that was signed in Washington, then we began to speak about our agenda with its various details until we restored our land and right. This process has passed all constitutional channels, so what democracy was obstructed? On the contrary, in my view, this enhances democracy. Our experience was a pioneering one in this respect.

Regarding our position on Iraq, I do not understand what the questions are about. Has our position changed? Our position has always been firm in terms of cohesion with the Iraqi people and their right in this life and in terms of removing their suffering—the blockade and any kind of suffering. You are speaking about democracy, human rights, and pluralism. We are either honest with ourselves — by wishing these [democracy, human rights, pluralism] for everybody else, working to make them their rights, and defending their rights to have them — or we are speaking in a vacuum and do not mean what we say. If brother Husayn Kamil had gone to any other fraternal country—and he has chosen Jordan because it is not an agent of any party and because Jordan maintains a well-known position toward Iraq and Iraq's people—what would we have done? Would we have been angry and asked why he did not come to us? This is part of it. The other part, sir, is about the situation in Iraq and the suffering there, not to mention the siege and harm. If it is an issue of a jolt which produced people in Iraq who became aware of their responsibilities and who began to move toward rectifying their mistakes, then this is good. If you do not stand by your brother in hard times and do not help him and defend him and his rights, then do not think that if you one day, God forbid, experience the same situation, he will side by you.

Prophet Muhammad and Islam ridded us of worshipping idols. For how long are we going to worship idols in this age? Enough tragedies for this nation. Everything we are speaking about is a right of man wherever he is in this Arab nation. It is his right to contribute toward shaping his future and to lead a secure, decent life. This is our message. We will not change. Do you agree with what we are saying? This is the question. We do not hatch plots and we do not beat around the bush. Others do this, but we do not. Our only objective is to see our nation strong and dignified, and this makes us strong and dignified. We have suffered as a result of the mistakes that were committed in this Arab nation. If the individual has no worth in this Arab nation, then there will be no future. This individual will be pushed toward extremism and a situation will be created that will lead to explosions all over the greater nation. The clock cannot stop at any time; nor can it be set back.

We are part of this world, and we should be aware of this fact.

[Unidentified AL-ASWAQ correspondent] Now, Jordan decided to continue to side by the Iraqi people in the face of the blockade in all its forms. Jordan is almost targeted now, just as the situation was in the previous stage. How dangerous is the Syrian-Egyptian activity by trying to approach Iran and Turkey at this stage?

[Husayn] It is better for me to remain silent. In any case, we wish them good luck.

[Sulayman Khayrallah, AL-DUSTUR] Your Majesty: We have been following Your Majesty's efforts in calling for building new foundations for Arab solidarity. We were happy for the resumption of our ties with the brothers in the Gulf states. There were hopes that concrete steps will be taken soon to resume relations with the brothers in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Has anything happened in this regard?

[Husayn] God willing, relations with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states will resume. God willing, we expect the Saudi ambassador here in Jordan shortly. The meeting [between King Husayn and the Saudi king] will take place at a later stage, God willing. I personally think that this meeting, which we always call for, will eliminate any traces of what these brotherly bilateral relations went through.

[Mustafa Abu-Libdah, chief editor of AL-ASWAQ] Your Majesty: The parliament's extraordinary session is about to end.

[Husayn] It ended.

[Abu-Libdah] Part of the economic package which is planned to be achieved at the Amman summit has already been achieved. How do you assess the general performance of the legislative and executive branches at this stage?

[Husayn] Praise be to God, I think the performance is good. We take pride in this performance, which is the result of many years of parliamentary life, which we have always dreamed of. This led to a host of temporary laws, which are being tackled quickly and accurately. God willing, all the results will be good. Cooperation among the three branches is a source of pride. I have great hopes for the future.

Editorial Defends Country's Position on Iraq

JN1709094995 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic
17 Sep 95 p 19

[Editorial: "So that Iraq Will Not Be Divided or Drown in Civil War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The current unjust campaign launched against Jordan and its national stands is the same campaign Jordan faced for similar reasons a few years ago, during which it was subjected to the toughest campaigns of falsehood, reversal of facts, and blockade.

In his statements to the press yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn stressed that Jordan accepts for the fraternal Iraqi people only what they accept for themselves in terms of freedom, dignity, national unity, and their legitimate right to get rid of the suffering and the embargo.

Recalling the time when the Gulf crisis erupted, we find that Jordan's call for an Arab solution to the question of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait so that the two peoples and the nation would not fall victim to a tragedy was met with a campaign of falsehoods and fabrications as well as armed support for the allied forces, regardless of the harmful consequences of such support and incitement.

After the dimensions of the Jordanian initiative for an Arab solution to the crisis of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait became evident to all, the same voices that had once fought the Iraqi people and contributed to the tragedy that first led to the internationalization of the crisis and then to war and embargo returned to cast doubts on the Jordanian attitude toward the fraternal Iraqi people.

Jordan suffered under the embargo inflicted on it due to the principled pan-Arab stance it adopted in 1990. But as usual, it managed to overcome difficulties and emerge even stronger than before by adhering to its principles and by working for the good of its nation. Therefore, the voices that seek to cast doubt and achieve short-term goals based on miscalculations cannot hide from the people the true pan-Arab principles of the Jordanian position on Iraq, which is currently facing major dangers jeopardizing the unity of its territory and people.

Jordan calls for an Iraqi-Arab solution to the embargo tragedy, which is tightening its noose around the eastern gate of the Arab world. Therefore, those who have contributed to the tragedy of the 1990 war should make up for what they did to Iraq, Kuwait, and the entire Arab region by backing the Jordanian initiative that calls for national dialogue and democracy in Iraq, instead of opposing it and attempting to cast doubt, distort facts, and obstruct any glimmer of hope for Iraq and its people,

who have endured a great deal during years of war and embargo.

Paper Rejects Pressure To Close Iraqi Border

JN1709102095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
17 Sep 95 p 6

[Editorial: "For Iraqis, As Always"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is indeed troubling for us to hear the "case" for tightening the economic noose around Iraq by closing Jordan's borders with its eastern neighbour. Troubling because the issues at stake are not simply the kind of black and white pieces that some are trying to put together, but whose piecing could affect the very fabric and history of Jordan and the principles that the Kingdom has followed for decades.

As His Majesty King Husayn said yesterday, Jordan never entertained and will not entertain the thought of closing its borders with Iraq since the Kingdom and its people care for the people of Iraq and are sincerely seeking to alleviate their suffering. No amount of pressure from any source will force Jordan to deviate from its principled stand towards its Arab brethren in their hour of need.

Suggestions that Jordan has changed its policy are necessarily coming out not of a vacuum but from vested interests of some. The King's affirmation, which he has repeated several times since the Aug. 8 defection of Husayn Kamil to Jordan, should be a clear message to all those who are trying to fish in murky waters.

Yielding to international pressure that was slowly turning out to be a de facto blockade on Jordan itself, we accepted an effective supervision of all goods destined to Iraq passing through Jordanian territory. The acceptance came despite the lopsidedness of the arrangement, clearly visible when we take into account the massive smuggling of goods into Iraq through other countries neighbouring Iraq. Having accepted the arrangement and having proved to the outside world that no contraband goods are entering Iraq through Jordan or that the Kingdom is a conduit for Iraqi products being smuggled out, there is no case against Jordan as far as the international sanctions are concerned.

Only U.N.-approved goods are being allowed to enter Iraq through Jordan, and Jordanian exporters must obtain special U.N. Security Council permission to ship local products.

Quite simply, Jordan has in place a strict regime of control that is as effective as can be on all trade to Iraq through this country. As for food and medicine, the U.N. itself has exempted them from the sanctions.

We cannot therefore deprive Iraqi people of medicine or food or accept to be instrumental in starving our Arab neighbours or denying them medicine.

Jordan's case is strongest when it makes a distinction between Iraq and its people on one hand and its regime on the other. We cannot accept the destruction of Iraq and its people for the sake of changing a regime in Baghdad. The current political structure in Iraq is temporary when viewed in a historical context. Iraq and

its people are permanent in historical dimensions. We must keep in focus this distinction when we articulate or adopt policies on our eastern neighbour, and our friends and allies must show more sensitivity to Jordan's dilemma in this vein. Jordan has been and still is the heartland of Arabism and cannot be expected to betray its long-standing ideals and aspirations for some transient considerations.

Buwayz Discusses Palestinians, Talks With Israel

NC1609102595 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0915 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has explained that the Lebanese Government decided to prevent Palestinians from entering Lebanon for several reasons, including political and social reasons. He said: Lebanon cannot be a sacrificial lamb. Accordingly, it cannot bear a sudden mass return of Palestinians. Buwayz said the government adopted a firm decision in this regard pending the establishment of a framework for solving this problem. He noted that Palestinian official Faruq Qaddumi's visit to Beirut did not deal with the deportation of Palestinians from Libya, but aimed at asking the Arab states to accept that there are two Palestinian points of view.

In an interview on Voice of Lebanon's "Saturday Saloon" program, Buwayz said the Lebanese-Palestinian talks are frozen because Israel refuses to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425. On the Israeli-Syrian talks, Buwayz noted that Israel is demanding their resumption on the level of experts while Syria wants to solve the problem of the early warning stations first. He noted that efforts are under way to solve this problem. Buwayz said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher might visit the region soon. He expressed the belief that Christopher's tour will not be exploratory, but that he will come to find a solution to this problem.

Buwayz said the delay in implementing the peace process produces a feeling of a lack of political and economic stability. He said politicians must realize that their differences reflect on investors. He noted that the link between politics and economics is strong and that they cannot be separated.

Birri Returns From Damascus, Briefs President

NC1609140095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1300 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri arrived at Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's mansion in Quraytim at 1545 today. They immediately held a meeting, which is still continuing.

On his way back from Damascus today, Speaker Birri visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi at his mansion in Zahlah and briefed him on his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday and with senior Syrian officials. President al-Hirawi hosted a banquet in honor of Speaker Birri.

Birri Views Damascus Talks

NC1709194295 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1815 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has stated that the substance of the agreement reached in Damascus was to resort to the law and the country's institutions in the stances we take and not to personal interests. He added that this is the essence of what we agreed upon and not to anything outside the independence and cooperation of the Lebanese institutions and national accord.

In a speech delivered at the Qartaba festivals this afternoon, Birri stressed that the Chamber of Deputies is sovereign and has a right to amend the Constitution with one or two paragraphs or with regard to the election of a new president. He noted that the presidential elections will be held on the date specified by the Constitution.

Responding to reports on an extension of the Chamber of Deputies term, Birri said that the Chamber of Deputies will not continue one day after the constitutional term and that the elections will take place on time. He called for all parties to participate in building the state structure. He noted that south Lebanon will be the decisive factor of victory or defeat for Lebanon. He pointed out that should a settlement be reached, Israel will continue to pose a great danger to Lebanon because Israel seeks to cancel its role as a likely competitor and to make it a center for settling Palestinians.

Islamic Group Claims Bombing of Israeli Vehicle

NC1709185995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1800 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance has carried out a daring operation inside the occupied border strip. It succeeded in penetrating security and field measures. At 1500 today, the Martyrs Yahya 'Ali Qasim and Muhammad Munif Nassar Group of the Islamic Resistance detonated an explosive device on the Marj 'Uyun road as a Zionist enemy intelligence motorcade was travelling on the road. The device targeted a white Mercedes with four security officers. The explosion caused the vehicle to catch fire and killed or wounded its passengers. In its statement, the Islamic Resistance said that after the operation, the Zionists sealed off the area and launched a search campaign. The mujahidin managed to break through the cordon and returned to the liberated areas without sustaining any casualties.

At 1805 today, an Amal Movement group attacked the al-Kufayr post with machine guns and rockets. At the same time another group attacked the 'Alman post with

machine guns and rockets, destroying an armored personnel carrier and machine-gun post at the two positions and killing or wounding the personnel manning them. Afterwards, the Zionist enemy bombarded the villages of Frun, al-Ghanduriyah, the al-Litani river basin, and Wadi Jilu with various types of weapons from its positions in al-Tayyibah, 'Alman, and Muhaybib.

Hizballah Denies Greeting U.S. Congressman

*NC1609095195 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic
4 Sep 95 p 2*

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has denied that one of its officials shook hands with U.S. Congressman Jim Colby when he visited Ba'labakk on Friday [1 September].

A statement issued by Hizballah said: "We deny that any Hizballah official received the U.S. congressman or shook hands with him at the entrance to Ba'labakk."

An AFP correspondent reported that Hani Fakhri-al-Din, brother-in-law of Husayn Musawi, who is leader of the Islamic Amal Movement and is close to Hizballah, told Colby when he received him at the entrance to the town: "I am from Hizballah and in the name of my party I welcome you to Ba'labakk."

Refugee Camp Blast Reported; PFLP Blames Gas Canister

*NC1609101395 Paris AFP in English
0924 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Sept 16 (AFP)—An explosion in the Palestinian refugee camp of Shatila here wounded at least seven people on the anniversary of the 1982 camps' massacre in Lebanon, residents said Saturday [16 September].

They said the blast occurred late Friday at an ammunition depot of the Popular Front for the Liberation (PFLP), a radical group based in Damascus. It was followed by ambulances arriving with sirens wailing. But a PFLP official said the blast — near a cemetery for victims of the camps' massacre — was caused by a gas canister exploding in a home.

The explosion came on the 13th anniversary of the massacre by Christian militiamen of hundred of civilians in the Sabra and Shatila camps during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Police were unable to give details of the blast as security inside the camps is handled by Palestinian organisations.

Al-Asad Receives Japan's Prime Minister Murayama

JN1609112895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad received Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and the accompanying delegation at the People's Palace at noon today. The meeting was attended by Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the prime minister; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; and Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister.

Mr. Murayama arrived in Damascus at 1100 today. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi led those who received him at Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

Further on Murayama-al-Asad Talks

OW1609151595 Tokyo KYODO in English 1501 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Sept. 16 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama called on Syria on Saturday [16 September] to intensify peace talks with Israel, but President Hafiz al-Asad said Israel should withdraw from the Golan Heights, officials said.

Murayama met with al-Asad for two and a half hours after his arrival in the Syrian capital from Cairo. Murayama is the first Japanese prime minister to visit Syria. Murayama also asked the Syrian leader to join the fight against terrorism in the Middle East, the officials said, adding al-Asad told the Japanese leaders Syria has never supported terrorism.

The Japanese leader arrived in Syria on the third leg of an eight-day, five-nation trip which has already taken him to Saudi Arabia and Egypt and will later bring him to Israel and Jordan. Earlier in the day, Murayama pledged to extend Syria an official loan of up to 46.1 billion yen to support the country's economic development and its efforts to promote peace in the Middle East, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said. The yen-denominated official credit will finance a project to construct a thermal power plant in al-Zara, some 200 kilometers north of Damascus. The loan will be formalized when the two countries exchange documents on the aid within two or three months, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Murayama is using his current Mideast trip to brief regional leaders on Tokyo's plan to send troops to join a UN Peacekeeping mission in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. The Japanese troops will take over transport duties from a Canadian contingent in the UN Disengagement Observer Force. He will fly to Israel

Saturday night and meet Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Sunday.

On Monday, Murayama will travel to Gaza, which was brought under Palestinian self-rule last year, to meet Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Leader Yasir 'Arafat. Later Monday, the prime minister will go to Jordan to meet King Husayn before leaving for Japan Monday evening.

Radio Notes Pelletreau Remarks on Middle East

JN1609072295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington—Robert Pelletreau, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle East affairs, has said that it is a basic priority of U.S. Government policy to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

At a meeting organized by the World Affairs Institution in the U.S. city of Milwaukee, Pelletreau added that instability in this region involves extraordinary threats, and it can create a race to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

Discussing the Syrian track, he said: We have shown much interest in this track over the past few months. Topics on the agenda have already been presented at the negotiating table.

Al-Asad Reaction to Husayn Kamil's Defection Viewed

JN1509173095 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 15 Sep 95 pp 25-27

[Report by Sa'id al-Qaysi in Paris: "How Will Hafiz al-Asad React?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Whether or not Husayn Kamil's defection from Baghdad to Jordan has been blown out of proportion, the defection itself will have serious repercussions on the Arab arena and on the Middle East. Also, the defection caused concern and moves on the highest levels to try to read it carefully and to understand whether this was part of a U.S. plan to redraw the regional plan, distribute the roles, and change the blocs, or a U.S. trap aimed against Syria, its role in the peace process, and the future of the region. This prompted Damascus to move on all levels. President Hafiz al-Asad visited Cairo and held a summit with President Husni Mubarak and Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam headed for Tehran. Also, signs of Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement appeared in the horizon. Amid all this, two major questions were posed: What does Washington exactly want and how will al-Asad react to the attempts to surround him?

A Jordanian diplomat, who is known for his strong relations with the palace and for his accurate and reliable information, tried to explain what happened in the region since the defection of Saddam Husayn's son-in-law, General Husayn Kamil, on 8 August. The Jordanian diplomat says: Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan has reshuffled the cards in the region. He adds that many countries exposed their cards on the table out of their belief that this reshuffling of cards is an expeditious sign to draw up a new political map.

The Jordanian official adds: There are many questions about the moves of some Arab countries and about Syrian reaction in particular. Some, he says, believe that Syria moved quickly, contrary to what it is known for. Has Syria exposed all its cards and fallen in the trap set by the United States by giving great importance to Husayn Kamil's defection? Or, was the Syrian move a preventive one only? What are Damascus' objectives? These questions are raised in many Arab capitals.

The Jordanian diplomat says: It is certain that Washington and the Clinton administration seek to change the political situation in an attempt to end the peace process within the framework it wants so as to pave the road for political changes in the region in support of this peace. This U.S. view is known and was recently discussed by the Arab leaders. There is one certain thing known by everybody: Washington rejects any policy based on forming pivots because it considers this as part of the past and a pressing tool in the face of its policies.

A French Foreign Ministry official says that Jordan has benefited on more than one level from the defection of Husayn Kamil and from the U.S. move in the wake of this defection. Jordan exploited the opportunity to emerge from the impasse it has been facing since the Gulf war. So, it rebuilt bridges with the Gulf countries, particularly with Saudi Arabia, and underscored its position as one of the keys to solve the problem of Iraq. Washington was preoccupied with providing an Arab cover to this position even though it seemed that this position serves Israel's interest within the framework of the peace process. However, the French official adds, regardless of the role of Jordan which exploited Husayn Kamil's defection, the limits of this role are linked with Washington's view. Consequently, these limits are narrow and King Husayn is aware of this based on the fact that Jordan cannot shoulder the responsibility of complete estrangement from Iraq and from Syria at the same time.

The French official believes that the United States is still searching for a solution from inside Iraq, but it also wants to neutralize Syria and Iran. Hence, a U.S.-Syrian crisis erupted.

More than one Arab and Western source emphasize that since the beginning of the negotiations between Israel and Syria, the Syrian leadership has keen on clearing the atmosphere with Washington and has worked for opening direct contacts with the United States with the aim of holding negotiations on the future of the peace process and the role which Syria can play in maintaining stability in the region.

The same sources emphasize that delicate dialogue was held on the subject, and Damascus presented itself as the party that has a solution for the Iraqi question and the only party that can "restrain" the Iranian card in Lebanon, represented by Hizballah. All the Syrian cards were presented for discussions, including the Kurdish card and, in particular, the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), led by Abdullah Ocalan, "who lives in Syria and whose presence in al-Biqa' Valley [in Lebanon] is only for giving interviews," according to a U.S. diplomat.

According to the sources, two U.S. officials from the State Department were against any bargaining with Syria; these officials are Robert Pellaureau and Dennis Ross.

The Jordanian diplomat says that before Husayn Kamil's flight, Syrian-U.S. relations were tense to the extent that during his recent visit to Damascus to prepare for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit, Dennis Ross was forced, after his talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', to open the file of the bombings carried out by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the military wing of Hamas. Ross said: We have confirmed information that Palestinian fundamentalists receive direct support from Iran and Hizballah in Lebanon, and that Washington does not accept anything less than implementing what has been agreed upon; namely, withdrawing of Hizballah's weapons and restricting the activities of Palestinian fundamentalists in Syria and Lebanon.

However, with the flight of Husayn Kamil, the Syrian-U.S. crisis became wide open. Damascus thought that what is happening on the level of Iraq, through Jordan, aims at besieging it politically and Damascus decided to move. Here, the Jordanian diplomat adds, some of the leaked reports are true, some are not.

The diplomat adds that there have been certain attempts in the past to hold dialogue between Damascus and Baghdad but it is not certain that President Hafiz al-Asad contacted the Iraqi president after Husayn Kamil's flight. However, it is certain that Damascus considered what happened a threat against it to the extent that it moved very quickly, and this was not customary for Damascus. Damascus confirmed that a small committee has been formed to follow the Iraqi file in light of recent

events. Also, some members of the Ba'th Party began contacts with some of their colleagues in Iraq on the basis that the Ba'th Party is now the third circle of power in Baghdad after the family and tribe circles, and on the basis that Syria has contacts with some senior officers through Wafiq al-Samarra'i and some of his military comrades.

In fact, the Jordanian diplomat also says, Syria felt that the call for changing the regime of Baghdad was directed against it, was aimed at diminishing its role, and was also used, like the movements of the U.S. Army, to press it to accept a peace agreement with Israel based on U.S.-proposed security arrangements that Syria views as an encroachment on its sovereignty. Therefore, Damascus decided to reveal all its cards on the Arab level after discussing the matter with Tehran.

Khaddam's negotiations with the Iranian leadership focused on the change in Iraq, on U.S. moves, and on the situation in southern Lebanon. An Arab source also says that Tehran, which is trying to exploit the situation to make Syria take a more hostile position toward the United States, asked several questions on what Syria would do with Lebanon and Hizballah. The source asserts that Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam told the Iranian officials that the political future of Hizballah was no longer discussed because peace negotiations have reached a deadlock. Tehran also tried to tell Syria that the U.S. military movements in the region were aimed at neutralizing Iran if a military confrontation with Syria took place in southern Lebanon. But Damascus ruled out this possibility at least for the time being because any aggression would temporarily harm the peace process and would result in Arab support for Syria.

The Syrian leadership, however, is still studying the goals of the U.S. movements and is preparing for all possibilities without appearing to be seeking complete estrangement from Washington. As a result, Syria deployed forces on the border with Iraq because the ongoing Kurdish conflict in the north of this country has become a threat to Syria's security. Syria also deployed forces on the border with Iraq to be able to face any situation if there is a bargain with Iraq at the expense of Syria. Syria has also postponed discussions on holding a Syrian-Iranian summit, which was called for by Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, believing that such a summit might be interpreted by Washington as crossing the red line.

Therefore, Damascus moved toward Egypt after failing to hold a quick meeting of the Damascus Declaration member states.

A Jordanian official says President al-Asad's remarks in Cairo were a step at easing tension with Washington. The Syrian president said the Husayn Kamil issue was given overdue attention. The Jordanian official viewed this remark by al-Asad as an indirect call to temporarily close the Iraqi file so as to ease tension on Syria's eastern front, especially since Mas'ud Barzani has accused Syria and Iran of stirring tension, supporting the PKK, and trying to undermine the Washington-sponsored Kurdish reconciliation.

The Jordanian official adds that Damascus is trying to prevent the explosion. He says that the cards that Ross has said are against Syria are being exposed. Concerning the Palestinian Hamas movement [Islamic Resistance Movement], a public split occurred following the U.S. threats to Syria concerning the Palestinian fundamentalists. Thus, the political wing of Hamas decided to establish a party and to participate in the elections. Meanwhile, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO political department, who visited Damascus twice, did nothing to withdraw the PLO from 'Arafat's authority.

Moreover, Syria felt that the Iranian card is weak and not good anymore for any bargain. Rather, it is a source of fear for the Arabs. Besides, it is rejected by Turkey, which indirectly refused to hold a tripartite Syrian-Iranian-Turkish dialogue on the level of foreign ministers, proposing instead a meeting on the level of experts to study the situation in northern Iraq, especially the PKK issue.

The exposure of all those cards in this way has prompted an Arab official to say that the United States might have pushed Damascus into a "trap" since the defection of Husayn Kamil to force it to move. This is especially true since Damascus moved swiftly, giving the impression that it was looking for an escalation. However, some believe that further developments may occur. The Iraqi president is looking for an exit. Therefore, he called for a tactical alliance with Iran. Meanwhile, his foreign minister expressed appreciation for the Syrian position. This gives the impression that Baghdad is pushing Damascus to hold a summit meeting with Tehran, so that the trap would close around Damascus and Saddam would emerge with a bargaining card with Washington. Thus, the official says, the Syrian troop movements on the border with Iraq might be a preventive and threatening measure at the same time in anticipation of what might happen or what Saddam Husayn might do.

Radio Assails Oslo Accord, Palestinian Policy*JN1609161995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The second anniversary of the Oslo accord fell a few days ago amid a sad atmosphere and a sense of frustration that are overwhelming the Palestinian people, who were deceived for just a brief time after the signing. Facts, then, have soon revealed that several elements have prompted the Palestinian people to reject the accord and that the self-rule authority completely bows to Israel's considerations, particularly those pertaining to the security issue.

We will not go too far in comparison. It is enough, however, to consider the atmosphere in the which this occasion was marked—an atmosphere which should have been pleasant—and to compare that to how Israel used to raise a propaganda clamor over the merits of peace, every time it reached a partial agreement.

Clamor has calmed down and lights have vanished. Two years later, including the year in which the second stage of the stumbling accord should have been implemented, the world discovered the illusion on which the two sides tried to build and to hint that peace and stability have been achieved.

Events have proved that Israel has remained captive to its expansionist ambitions and its hostile ideologies. The most obvious example is the long hours of meetings the limited self-rule officials held with the Israeli officials without reaching any agreement even on the ceiling set by the Oslo accord, which Israel has avoided implementing despite the accord's defects and shortcomings.

The numerous meetings between the two sides do not only refer to the weakness of the Oslo accord, but also to the eagerness of the Palestinian side to implement it and to give concession after concession until it melts into Israel's plans to maintain the occupation under different titles in the West Bank and its settlement in Hebron, and in Jerusalem, and to postpone discussions on vital, fateful issues that will serve Israel's policy to block any progress unless new concessions are offered.

It is very clear that the long hours of negotiations between Israel and the self-rule authority have not produced any concrete results, and smiles before cameras are only much ado about nothing. If negotiations lead to another agreement in the near future, it will not differ from the previous one. It will be a fragile, partial agreement that will not guarantee any Palestinian right and that will not secure peace or stability in the West bank, Gaza, or the region.

Lessons derived from the peace process prove that the continuation of the Israeli game will only lead to the collapse of the true prospect of just and comprehensive peace that can live and produce stability and security in the region, including the interests of the region's peoples and the world.

Understanding all the elements of the long experience of the peace process, as well as the stalemate resulting from Israel's procrastination, stresses the importance of restoring credibility to the bases of the peace process, its international guarantees, and its principles, which Syria accepted by approving the U.S. initiative that is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

All the clashes that have occurred and also other developments indicate that Oslo and its fragile path will never lead to peace. If peace cannot be just and comprehensive there can be no peace. Peace must also be based on resolutions of international legitimacy and the will of the international community, otherwise, it cannot be implemented. If peace is based on partial, inequitable [ghayr mutakafi'ah] solutions it will not meet people's demands and will not convince anybody. Therefore, it will lose its ability to last.

Council Reviews Euphrates Basin Projects*JN1509202495 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 29 Aug 95 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus (SANA) — The Higher Council for State Construction Companies held a meeting at 1000 yesterday under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The meeting was attended by Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; minister members of the council, head of the bureau of the Higher Council for State Construction Companies; the director general of the State Organization for Land Reclamation; and several directors and advisers.

During this session, the council discussed the status of work in Maskanah Gharb and Maskanah Sharq projects in the Euphrates Basin. The cabinet discussed the fixed time and fiscal schedules, the volume and value of work actually carried out, the hardships hampering the progress of work, and the proposals made to overcome these hardships and also expedite work in both of these projects.

The prime minister affirmed the need to abide by the fixed time and fiscal schedules and to exploit all available capabilities in the best manner possible, noting that accountability will be based on actual results.

The council discussed the items on its agenda and the topics submitted and adopted the appropriate decisions on them.

Cuban Parliamentary Delegation Leaves Damascus

JN1609124295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cuban parliamentary delegation headed by (Reinold Indus) left Damascus this morning after a week-long visit to Syria during which it met with several party and state officials, held parliamentary and political talks, and visited several historical sites as well as the liberated city of al-Qunaytirah.

The delegation was seen off by Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Arab and International Relations Committee at the People's Assembly and several Assembly members.

Before leaving Damascus, Indus made a statement in which he said he was pleased by this fruitful visit to Syria and by the constructive talks he held with the Syrian officials—talks which will strengthen relations between the two friendly countries, Syria and Cuba, in implementation of the instructions of President Hafiz al-Asad and President Fidel Castro.

Afghanistan

Radio Reports on Captured 'Spies' From Pakistan

LD1709181695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three Pakistani spies were shown to journalists by the security authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. BAKHTAR reports that, according to the security authorities, the Pakistani spies were captured recently. The spies are Shakeel Ahmad from Abbottabad, North West Frontier Province, and Eshfaq Sadeq from Gujranwala, Punjab, who were captured in Kotal-e Khawak [Panjshir], and the third one Hemayatullah is a police officer from Quetta, Baluchistan Province, who was arrested in Kabul. Engineer 'Ali, a security officer of Afghanistan, showed to the journalists 14 items that were found on the spies. The items include a pistol with a Pakistani license, ID cards with forged names, a telephone taping machine, two sheets of cipher in Russian language, two notebooks, which prove their links with senior ISI [Interservices Intelligence] officials, and the names of a number of Afghan arms dealers, and an amount of Pakistani currency and dollars. Two Pakistani passports with forged German and Afghan visas to enhance the credibility of the passports were also shown to the journalists.

According to 'Abdol Satar, director of Southeast Asia in the Foreign Ministry, this shows that Pakistan's intelligence is directly interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

One of the spies introduced himself in the following words:

[Begin recording] [Hemayatullah] My name is Hemayatullah and my father's name is Gholam Hazrat. I am from Quetta.

[Unidentified questioner] How did you enter Afghanistan?

[Hemayatullah] I was sent by [words indistinct] of DIG [as heard] to come to Kabul and to observe what kind of weapons does the army has? And that I will meet an Afghan in Kabul who will give me a job with the Afghan army. I will be reporting back to him.

[Questioner] You said who sent you to Kabul.

[Hemayatullah] I was sent by DIG from Quetta.

[Questioner] Where were you arrested?

[Hemayatullah] No sooner did I arrive at the station than I was arrested by the Afghan army. [end recording]

10,000 Indian Troops Reportedly Sent to Kabul

BK1709104695 Islamabad NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu
16 Sep 95 p 1,7

[Report by NAWA-I-WAQT correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Zhob—According to confirmed reports from across the border, India has sent 10,000 soldiers commanded by Lieutenant General Lal Chand to Kabul. These troops will be used against the Taleban by Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani. These Indian troops also include commandos. According to the reports, this army will first be used to recapture Herat. President Rabbani has requested more military aid from India in addition to these 10,000 troops.

It has been learned that "RAW" [Research and Analysis Wing] agents have also been sent to Afghanistan, where they are planning to launch subversive activities in the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] and Baluchistan. The government has increased vigilance along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. The Afghan Defense Ministry alleged recently that Pakistan was going to launch an attack on Kabul through the Taleban. Meanwhile, Kabul radio is continuously broadcasting the propaganda, through its Persian and Pashto transmissions, that Pakistan is providing military assistance to the Taleban and is also giving them military training in the NWFP's religious educational institutions.

According to NNI [News Network International], the Indian Government has sent 10,000 troops to Kabul under the command of a lieutenant general. President Rabbani will use these troops to crush the Taleban movement, and it is believed that Rabbani will launch an attack to recapture Herat with the help of these Indian troops. The military contingent also includes commandos, who have been deployed around Kabul so that any attack from the Taleban could be stopped.

According to KPI from Peshawar, a massive encounter between the Kabul government troops and anti-Rabbani forces is expected. The parties opposed to the Rabbani government are ready to launch a final and decisive attack on Kabul. The Taleban, Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] Afghanistan, and Uzbek militia leader 'Abdol Rashid Dostam have established secret contacts with each other in this regard.

'Rumor' of Indian Troops Arrival Denied

BK1709105295 Islamabad NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu
16 Sep 95 p 1,7

[Report by NAWA-I-WAQT Peshawar Bureau]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ustad Qarib-ur-Rehman Saeed, spokesman of Hezb-e-Eslami [Islamic Party] Afghanistan in Peshawar, and Maulvi Samiullah, an adviser of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, have contradicted the report that 10,000 Indian troops have arrived in Kabul and have called it a rumor. Samiullah said that such rumors are being spread against the Afghan Government every day, but the Afghan Government has not asked for any military force from India.

Meanwhile, Ustad Qarib-ur-Rehman Saeed, the spokesman of Hezb-e Eslami (Hekmatyar), said that this report is unbelievable because India will never commit the folly of sending its troops to Afghanistan. He also said that the Rabbani government cannot survive, even if 100,000 instead of 10,000 Indian troops come to help him. This is because the recent attacks on Kabul have left his government completely powerless.

Taleban Warns Foreign Embassies To Leave Kabul

LD1509192695 (Clandestine) Radio Message of
Freedom in Pashto
to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with BBC Radio, 'Abdol Hakim Monib, a member of the Taleban council, warned foreign embassies and organizations in Kabul to leave Kabul as soon as possible. He added: If they ignore our warning then the responsibility for any loss or damage to the personnel of the embassies or organizations will rest on them.

Regarding the country's current issues 'Abdol Hakim Monib said: Rabbani must hand over all his forces to the Taleban so that [words indistinct] the fighting ends in Kabul and the people themselves decide the future of Afghanistan. He further added that if the Kabul administration does not accept their demand, the responsibility for every unpleasant consequence will rest on Kabul's coalition government.

Foreign Aid Workers Reassured on Kabul Security

LD1609201695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A briefing session was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this afternoon, presided over by Deputy Foreign Minister Abdorrahim Ghafuray and attended by foreign aid agencies officials in Kabul. At the beginning of the session, Ghafuray spoke

about the duties of the aid agencies officials in connection with the reconstruction of Afghanistan and about the moving of the aid agencies and UN offices to Kabul. He said: The awareness of the brave people of Herat of the real identity of the mercenaries and the resolve of the Islamic state to protect Afghanistan's territorial integrity, national sovereignty, and independence after the events which led to the occupation of Herat by the Pakistani militia and the mercenaries known as Taleban, force me to reassure and promise you that very soon the present illegal situation in Herat will be changed; and as their previous attempts, the foreigners' recent attempt will also be defeated.

Ghafuray added: There are some enemies who want to cause worry to diplomatic missions and foreign aid agencies. Present security capabilities in the capital and other parts of the country strongly reflect the confidence that Kabul will continue to enjoy complete security and stability as it has over the past six months. God willing, steady steps will be taken to expand peaceful areas and to fight against the causes of instability in the country.

Taleban Chief Addresses Upcoming Attack on Kabul

BK1609150595 Hong Kong AFP in English
1449 GMT 16 Sep 95

[By Terence White]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MAYDAN SHAHR, Afghanistan, Sept 16 (AFP)—The Taleban commander Saturday [15 September] said his forces would attack Kabul "as soon as our preparations are complete" and told the Afghan president to step down.

However there was no overt sign of military readiness by the Taleban at their western frontline here Saturday.

"The attack (on Kabul) will take place in the near future, as soon as our preparations are complete," Mullah Abdul Qayum, the Maydan Shahr military commander told AFP during a visit to the area.

Mullah Qayum, better known by his nom de guerre of Mullah Mishr ("leader"), arrived Thursday in the Taleban-controlled provincial capital of Maydan Shahr, 40 kilometres (24 miles) west of Kabul.

Twelve days ago he took part in the capture of Herat, the provincial capital.

He said if President Borhanoddin Rabbani and his ex-defence minister, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, did not surrender, the Taleban would take Kabul by force.

"We are war veterans, and we know that once their frontline is broken, everyone runs away," said Mullah Mishr, a former mujahedeen commander.

However, there were no obvious signs of military preparedness in Maydan Shahr or on Taleban frontlines five kilometres (three miles) to the north.

Apart from some Russian-made battle-tanks, many of which were broken down by the road, the only obvious Taleban military hardware on display were recoilless rifles and numerous 82mm and 120mm mortars.

Front line fighters looked relaxed and there was no exchange of fire with pro-Rabbani troops.

A bomb dropped by Rabbani planes two days ago landed directly at the governor's house in Maydan Shahr, injuring two Taleban fighters.

However, Mullah Mishr denied an assertion by a defence ministry official in Kabul that bombing attacks against the Taleban for the past three nights had broken their resolve for an attack.

The Taleban have said if Rabbani did not step down they would attack Kabul.

They have asked diplomats, members of humanitarian organisations and all foreigners to leave Kabul to avoid being caught in possible fighting. The News, a Pakistani daily, said Friday.

It quoted Taleban spokesman Mohammed Hakim Munib, as telling all Kabul residents to leave the city or take shelter in safe locations.

Taleban Gathering Forces for Attack on Kabul

*LD1809083495 Tehran IRNA in English
0803 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept. 18, IRNA — The Afghan consul in Peshawar said that situation around Maydan Shahr was deteriorating and the fighting between government forces and Taleban was imminent. Musa Khan, the Afghan consul in Peshawar talking to IRNA said that Taleban have accumulated its forces around Maydan Shahr, capital of Vardak Province, and the government forces were also taken the necessary steps in this regard.

Maydan Shahr is about 40 km west of Kabul and it is viewed that Taleban will either attack Kabul from western side or from southern side of Mohammad Agha district in Lowgar Province. Musa Khan said Kabul forces and Taleban were very close and watch each other's movement.

The Afghan consul added that Rabbani government was striving for an end to the ongoing infightings and killing of the innocent people of Afghanistan. He stressed the need for dialogue as a peaceful solution to the civil war in Afghanistan and said war is not solution to any issue.

Taleban forces had warned foreign diplomats and officials to leave Kabul as they had planned a final assault against the Rabbani forces there.

Further on Taleban Preparations

*LD1809090895 Tehran IRNA in English
0825 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept. 18, IRNA — The Taleban has despatched its fresh groups around the Kabul including in southern Lowgar Province and Vardak towards west of Kabul.

Maulavi Gul Hashem, a spokesman of Taleban in Peshawar on Monday [18 September] confirmed the news and said that Taleban groups from Kandahar, Khowst and Herat have moved towards Kabul. Taleban at present confronting with Kabul forces from the areas of Lowgar and Vardak provinces. [as received] It is said that Taleban was preparing itself for a final attack on Kabul. A Taleban spokesman told IRNA that only the Taleban leadership knew about the planning and time of assault at Kabul. It has been reported that Rabbani government has established trenches around Kabul and also has deployed new forces for the security of the city.

Taleban started fresh round of fightings with government forces about two weeks ago in which it succeeded to capture few provinces including Herat and now it has control of 13 province of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Opposition Renews Call For Caretaker Government

*BK1409144095 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH
OBSERVER in English 7 Sep 95 p 1*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Awami League President Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday [6 September] gave fresh proposal of the neutral caretaker government headed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as Prime Minister to conduct free and fair general elections in the country.

The Prime Minister will have a number of advisers to assist him in running the routine affairs of the administration. The advisers will be appointed by the Prime Minister in consultation with the leaders of the ruling party and the opposition.

Addressing a Press conference at the National Press Club after the opposition's dawn-to-dusk hartal [strike] in the city, Sheikh Hasina said that the job of the neutral caretaker government would be confined to running of the day to day administration and conduct the general elections. Such a government, she said, would be ratified by the new parliament when it goes into

session. Her proposal also included strengthening of the Election Commission and total reshuffling of the civil administration including the police before the general elections.

The Awami League chief urged the government to accept the demand for neutral caretaker government to save the country from the path of confrontation. "We do not want to push the country towards confrontation" Sheikh Hasina said. She blamed the government for pushing the country on the path of confrontation by showing pighead attitude to the opposition demand for neutral caretaker government. She hoped that good sense would prevail upon the government before the time ran out.

Sheikh Hasina said that the present BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] government was the product of the neutral caretaker government headed by Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. She said, she did not find logic behind the government's "no" to the caretaker government.

Replying to a question, Sheikh Hasina said that the opposition and the government would request the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to accept the position of the Prime Minister. She hoped that the Chief Justice would agree to the request in the interest of the nation.

She told a questioner that the opposition was not opposed to dialogue on the current political stalemate. But she said that the basis for such dialogue should be finalised before the sitting.

Sheikh Hasina termed the country's present political situation as very dangerous and blamed the government for creating the situation. She said that the BNP government had snatched the people's right to vote and let loose terrorism across the country. She accused the government of vote fraud in Magura and Mirpur. She said that the government was releasing identified terrorists from jails with the objective to create terrorism during elections. The Awami League Chief said that the people would not want to be killed by participating in the elections under BNP government.

Drawing a grim picture of the country's law and order situation, Sheikh Hasina said that lawlessness had been prevailing in the country and a sense of insecurity had gripped the people in all spheres of the society. Referring to the killing of young girl Yasmin in Dinajpur, she said that the incident had proved that there was no government in the country. Terming the killing of Yasmin in police custody as beastly, she said that the incident had sparked widespread fury among the people of Dinajpur and Rangpur. She said that she had visited Dinajpur after the incident and talked to the

people. She urged the people of Dinajpur not to take law in their hands. But she deplored that neither the Prime Minister nor any minister of the government had visited Dinajpur.

Instead she said that the government had issued Press Note which was a blatant lie. Sheikh Hasina said that the Prime Minister without going to Dinajpur went to Beijing to attend the women's conference. She called it a shame for the nation as Yasmin's death would be discussed in the conference.

Sheikh Hasina accused the government of politicising the administration. BNP activists are being put to different levels of the administration including the educational institutions, she alleged. "None but BNP personnel are getting jobs in the government," she remarked. She demanded reshuffling of the police administration before the elections.

Sheikh Hasina said that the government was running the country according to "might is right policy". The government, she alleged had violated the Constitution and Parliament. Referring to the resignation of opposition MP's, she said after the resignation of the opposition MP's parliament had lost its legitimacy. But the government was forcibly running it. The government was pursuing the extreme form of dictatorship in the country, Sheikh Hasina said.

Turning to corruption of the government, Sheikh Hasina said that it had legalised corruption in the country. She referred to fertilizer scandal and said that the ministers, MP's, and leaders of BNP had amassed crores of taka by creating fertilizer crisis.

She said 18 farmers were killed by the government when they demanded fertilizer at fair prices. Instead of fertilizer, the government gave the farmers bullets, Hasina angrily said.

The government had betrayed the nation and violated the promises made with the political parties, students, and professionals. The BNP government had betrayed the joint declaration of the three alliances, she added.

Ruling BNP Holds Talks on Interim Government

BK1709121095 Dhaka THE DAILY STAR in English
12 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Nazmul Ashraf]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ruling BNP's [Bangladesh Nationalist Party's] discussion on the formation of an interim government after the proposed resignation of the Prime Minister 30 days ahead of the election has slowed down as the party stalwarts found that the options

considered were not covered under the constitution, competent sources said.

"The party policy planners have virtually got confused as to what to be done if the Prime Minister resigned 30 days prior to the holding of the next general elections," an influential minister actively involved in the intra-party discussion on the issue told THE DAILY STAR last night.

"Now we'll be looking for other options," he said, adding "A ruling party MP may head the interim government provided the incumbent prime minister is unwilling to continue following dissolution of the present Parliament," he said, asking not to be named.

The minister, who is also a member of the party's standing committee, further said they might also discuss Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's proposal for an interim government headed by the Chief Justice. He, however, added that time is yet to come.

Earlier, the top BNP leaders, while discussing the issue had suggested several options on the formation of an interim government headed by the President.

Despite Sunday's [10 September] hectic discussions in the BNP on the issue there was no further formal discussions till last night. BNP sources also ruled out discussions in the next couple of days since party Secretary General is scheduled to leave for his home district Jamalpur today and likely to stay there for several days. The Prime Minister is also due to leave for Dinajpur today.

Reportage on General Strike Against Government

Strike Disrupts Transport Systems

BK1609140195 Hong Kong AFP in English
1350 GMT 16 Sep 95

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, Sept 16 (AFP)—Riot police and paramilitary troops were out in force Saturday [16 September] amid sporadic clashes as a 72-hour general strike paralysed life in Bangladesh, severely disrupting rail, road and air transport.

Clashes were reported in the capital Dhaka, where home-made bombs were set off at the start of the strike early Saturday. One bomb was thrown at the house of a senior government official in upmarket Dhanmandi district but no one was hurt, officials said.

But press reports said more than 100 people were injured over the past two days in clashes between

government and opposition supporters throughout the country.

At least 25 passengers coming to Dhaka by train from the nearby port of Narayanganj were injured when pickets attacked the train, local sources said.

State Bangladesh Railways said services were disrupted nationwide and witnesses said student activists harassed and heckled government employees walking to work.

In Khulna town in southern Bangladesh, three supporters of the main opposition Awami League were hospitalised with bullet wounds after a pro-strike march was attacked by unidentified assailants, the United News of Bangladesh said.

The strike is the longest since Prime Minister Khaleda Zia came to power in 1991 and the current anti-government campaign began 17 months ago.

The move coincided with industrial action by the Jute and Textile Workers' Action Committee which is demanding wage rises. Most industrial production was affected, though officials said 30 percent of workers turned up for work in and around Dhaka.

Some 6,000 riot police and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles patrolled the deserted streets and guarded known trouble spots in Dhaka.

Pickets, including senior party leaders chanting slogans, patrolled several districts. In one incident in the capital's Mahakhali area, a three-wheeler taxi was attacked, witnesses said.

Pedicabs were the only vehicles on the streets. Shops, banks, businesses and schools were shut, but government officials either stayed overnight in offices or reported to work early Saturday.

At least three people have been killed and scores injured during opposition street protests since late August.

The national airline Biman cancelled most domestic flights, but international operations were unaffected, a spokeswoman said.

Inter-district bus services were not operating, officials said.

The strike was also enforced in the major cities of Rajshahi, Khulna and Chittagong, where the country's major port was shut, local officials said.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League, the Jatiya Party of deposed and jailed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad and the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party have been spearheading the anti-government campaign since early last year.

They are demanding the government resign immediately to allow new elections under a neutral caretaker regime headed by the Chief Justice.

Zia, who has rejected their demand as unconstitutional, has called for the strikes to be resisted and has offered to step down 30 days ahead of polls, scheduled for early 1996.

AFP Reports on Bomb Blasts in Dhaka

BK1709132295 Hong Kong AFP in English
1301 GMT 17 Sep 95

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **DHAKA, Sept 17 (AFP)**—Bomb blasts rocked Dhaka Sunday [17 September], second day of a general strike to press Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to stand down, as strike activists fought with rivals and security personnel here leaving 50 injured.

Thousands of police and paramilitary forces were on the streets as the three-day strike brought rail and road transport to a halt. Most domestic flights were cancelled, officials said.

In one incident 20 people were injured when police baton-charged activists who torched an ambulance which was speeding away when told to slow down, witnesses said. The ambulance hit a child.

Opposition Awami League activists claimed that the ambulance, permitted to operate during stoppages, was carrying a government official. A hospital staff watching the burnt down vehicle refused to comment.

Clashes between pro- and anti-strike activists in an area bordering military barracks, left 20 injured, the United News of Bangladesh news agency said. Ten more were injured in similar incidents in nearby areas.

Fighting in the capital, Chandpur, Khulna, Cox's Bazar and Sirajganj left 200 injured on Saturday, including some police, the mass circulation daily Janakantha reported.

Fifty passengers were injured when their train was attacked by militants wielding branches and stones in Narayanganj, east of Dhaka, officials said.

At least three people have died and scores injured as the opposition street protests intensified since late August. Some 50 people have been reportedly arrested for rioting since the strike started, but no independent confirmation was available.

Student activists harassed some government employees walking to work Saturday and stripped three of them, witnesses said.

Police arrested one university student following the incident, which was a copy of another during the 1990 pro-democracy campaign. But the Daily Star newspaper said "Nobody deserves to be so humiliated."

This is the longest strike period since Prime Minister Khaleda Zia came to power in 1991. The current anti-government campaign began 17 months ago demanding Zia's resignation to allow new elections under a neutral caretaker government.

Coincided with the political strike, three days of industrial action and a rail-road blockade has been called by Jute and Textile Workers' Action Committee for higher wage.

Opposition leaders, led by the Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed, said the success of the strike Saturday was a verdict in their favour.

Pedicabs, the only vehicles on the streets, were more numerous on Sunday than on Saturday. But shops, banks, businesses and schools were shut.

Both days were working days in predominantly Moslem Bangladesh.

The Star warned of uncertainty, saying: "We still hope and pray that good sense prevails over our political leaders."

The Awami League, the Jatiya Party of jailed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad and the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami party have been spearheading the anti-government campaign since early last year.

Zia has rejected their demand as unconstitutional, but has offered to step down 30 days ahead of polls scheduled for early 1996.

Radio Reports Strike Passes Peacefully

BK1709164795 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network
in Bengali 1500 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The second day of the 72-hour strike called by some opposition parties passed peacefully in the country today. BSS reported that no vehicles plied the streets of the capital, and shops, commercial organizations, nongovernment offices, and educational institutions remained closed. It added that vegetable markets were open. Attendance at offices was satisfactory. Banks were open, but there were no transactions. Two flights operated on the domestic routes of Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet; remaining domestic flights were canceled. Sources at the Zia International Airport said that flights operated as usual on the international routes. During this period, long-distance buses did not leave from the Gabtali, Saidabad, and Mohakhali

bus terminals. Sadarghat terminal sources said that the number of vessels moving along waterways on all routes was fewer today than yesterday. Train links with the capital were disrupted.

In Dhaka, no major unfortunate incidents were reported apart from an injury sustained by a young boy when he was hit by an ambulance near the Suhrawardy Hospital. The injured boy was quickly admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The ambulance quickly left the scene after the accident. Later, an ambulance from the Post Graduate Hospital was stopped by people while passing that way and was set ablaze.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports that, except for a few pedicabs, no other transports were moving in the port city. The majority of shops and commercial establishments were closed; however, attendance was normal in government offices. In the port area, the movement of ships continued, but loading and unloading of goods at the jetty was hampered. In the export processing zone, 17 out of a total of 59 units operated as usual.

Our Khulna correspondent reports that the second day of the 72-hour strike passed peacefully. There was no movement of any kind of vehicles, including pedicabs. Banks, commercial establishments, and shops were also closed. In Khulna, normal work continued in government offices, Khulna Newsprint Mills, Hardboard Mills, Khulna Shipyard, Bangladesh [words indistinct], and some other mills and factories. [Words indistinct]

Our Sylhet correspondent reports that almost all business establishments were closed, but normal work continued in government offices. Train and road communications were disrupted, but there were no reports of any untoward incidents.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reports that the strike was peacefully observed for the second day. No untoward incidents were reported. Our Rangpur correspondent says that the second day of the 72-hour strike also passed peacefully. No report of any untoward incidents was received.

India

Spokesman Stresses Efforts for Release of Hostages

BK1509125295 *Delhi All India Radio Network*
in English 1230 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Kashmir Valley, eight militants were killed and 20 arrested during search and combing operations in the last 24 hours. An official spokesman said a large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered.

He said efforts are on for the safe release of four abducted foreign tourists. He said the government is in contact with the kidnappers and they are being persuaded to set the tourists free without any harm.

Kashmir Abductors Assure Hostages 'Alive,' 'Safe'

BK1509145395 *Delhi Doordarshan Television*
Network in English 1430 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir authorities have renewed their appeal to Al-Faran to release all the four foreign tourists held hostage by them since 4 July. An official spokesman said the authorities are in constant touch with the abductors through intermediaries to secure a safe and early release of the hostages. He said the last contact between the authorities and abductors was held last evening. The spokesman said the abductors have assured the government representatives that all the hostages are alive and safe.

Governor Rules Out Hostage-Release Operation

BK1709082595 *Delhi All India Radio Network*
in English 0435 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has appealed to the abductors of the four foreign tourists to release the hostages and come forward for direct talks on their demands. Talking to media persons in Srinagar last evening, he asked the abductors not to link their demands with the release of the hostages, who are innocent and should be released without any delay. Gen. Rao ruled out any security operation to release the foreign hostages.

Meanwhile, the 14-member delegation of the parliamentary standing committee for home affairs, now on a three-day visit to the state, reviewed the pace of developmental activities in Leh District yesterday. The team held discussions with the newly elected executive councillors of Leh Autonomous Hill Development Council and district officers.

Officials Note No Response From Kidnappers

BK1809062495 *Hong Kong AFP in English*
0606 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 18 (AFP) — Muslim separatist militants holding four western tourists hostage in Kashmir have not responded to a government offer of face-to-face negotiations, Indian officials here said Monday [18 September].

Kashmir government spokesman K.B. Jindial said the authorities had been in touch by telephone Sunday

night with the abductors of two Britons, an American and a German but there had been no response to the government offer.

Kashmir governor K.V. Krishna Rao told reporters in this Kashmir summer capital over the weekend that the government was willing to discuss the militants' demands provided they entered into direct talks.

"Anything can be discussed provided they come to the negotiating table," he said, adding that the government would ensure the safety of the militants' negotiators.

The shadowy Muslim separatist group Al-Faran, which abducted the four westerners in early July, has demanded the release of 15 Muslim guerrillas from Indian prisons. The Indian authorities have repeatedly ruled out a prisoner—for-hostage swap.

Informed sources here said meanwhile that Al-Faran may be willing to release Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, American Don Hutchings and German Dirk Hasert in exchange for the freedom of one top Muslim militant.

They said the separatists were keen to secure the release of Masood Azhar, a leader of the hardline Muslim separatist group Harkatul Ansar, and were ready to drop their demand for the release of the other militants.

The Indian authorities allege that Al-Faran, unknown before the abductions in July, is actually Harkatul Ansar, which kidnapped two Britons in Kashmir last year and released them unharmed after 17 days.

Harkatul Ansar, which has a number of Afghan mercenaries in its ranks, has denied involvement and charged that the kidnapping was staged by Indian intelligence agencies to discredit the Muslim separatist campaign.

Kashmir government spokesman Jindial declined to comment meanwhile on Indian newspaper reports that Al-Faran had offered to release the hostages in exchange for a ransom payment of 1.5 million dollars.

The Pioneer newspaper, citing unidentified home ministry sources, said the release of the hostages could be imminent and final details of the deal were being worked out.

Al-Faran seized Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, and American Don Hutchings, 42, on July 4 near the Himalayan trekking resort of Pahalgam.

Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, and German Dirk Hasert, 26, were abducted in the same area four days later.

Ostro was beheaded last month and a note found on his body warned that the four other hostages would meet

the same fate if the Indian authorities failed to release the imprisoned Muslim rebels.

More than 12,000 people have died since 1989 in the Muslim separatist campaign in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Spokesman Expresses 'Dismay' Over Nuclear Tests

*BK1509160195 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 15 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India today expressed dismay over the nuclear tests carried out by some nuclear weapon states recently. Terming the development as serious setback to the ongoing negotiations for a comprehensive nuclear test ban, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said it has highlighted the inherent defects of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He said India is actively participating in the negotiations for a comprehensive test ban in Geneva, which should not be affected by continued tests by nuclear weapon states. New Delhi hopes that all countries will negotiate in good faith for a universal and nondiscriminatory treaty and refrain from actions contrary to this objective.

British Trade Minister on Partnership Program

*BK1509102195 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 15 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The British trade minister, Mr. Anthony Nelson, has said the Indo-British Partnership Initiative, IDPI, will focus on small and medium enterprises in the coming years. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said the thrust of the IDPI would be to move to smaller cities with a population of a million or more people to increase the benefits and the penetration of business. He said one of the benefits of the partnership program has been the increase in bilateral trade. Mr. Nelson said Britain is keen to participate in developing India's transport infrastructure and setting up multilateral joint ventures in sectors like power generation.

Finance Minister Views Foreign Investment

*BK1609132895 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1230 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The finance minister says the fiscal deficit will be close to 5.5 percent of the GDP by the end of the current financial year. Dr. Manmohan Singh expressed confidence that the growth rate will be from 5.5 to 6 percent. Opening a seminar in New Delhi today, he said around 7,000 crore rupees will be realized from disinvestment of public sector shares. Favoring a much bolder initiative for privatizing the public sector, the finance minister said the government has, however,

been constrained from taking such a step due to the fear of large-scale unemployment.

On the issue of subsidies, Dr. Manmohan Singh said though the government had taken positive steps in the first two years, political and other compulsions had affected the process. He said it resulted in providing 12,000 crore rupees as subsidies in food and fertilizers during the current financial year. Dr. Manmohan Singh expressed confidence that if there is political stability, the country could get direct investment to the tune of \$5 to \$10 billion in the next few years. He said the country has already received foreign direct investment of about \$1.3 billion during the current fiscal year.

Bank Reports Increase in External Debt Stock

*BK1509110195 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD
in English 13 Sep 95 p 11*

[Editorial: "Manageable Debt?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Reserve Bank of India [RBI], in its annual report for 1994-95, has reported that the nominal value of India's external debt stock has increased by \$4.2 billion last year. It adds that 80 per cent of this increase is due to the revaluation of non-U.S dollar denominated debt — subsequent to the weakening of the dollar against both the yen and the mark. This suggests that the actual accumulation of debt has been much smaller. But this raises the obvious question of whether the reserves are being held in the right mix of currencies. Indeed, the RBI figures seem to be an underestimate, because the latest Finance Ministry estimate is that the foreign debt is not \$95 billion but \$98 billion.

Meanwhile, a hump in the debt service repayments — principally, a \$1.1 billion repayment made to the IMF — prompted a mild deterioration in the debt service ratio (as a percentage of current receipts) to 27.1 per cent, from 25.3 per cent a year earlier. As against 35.3 per cent in 1990-91, debt servicing now accounts for just over a quarter of the current receipts. With improved prospects for current receipts, which consist of exports and inward invisibles, the sustainability of this level of external debt is no longer in dispute, although the country should be aiming at a reduction of the debt service ratio to under 20 per cent of current receipts.

It would seem from the annual report that the RBI would like a further accretion to the foreign exchange reserves. That means it would like the current account deficit to be contained well below the projected levels of capital inflows. At \$24.15 billion, current reserves (including gold and SDR's [special drawing rights]) cover 9.8 months of imports. This is more than enough "insulation against external shocks" in the immediate

perspective, but not nearly so if one were to look ahead to growing current account deficits. This year's current account deficit is already expected to expand to 1.2 per cent of GDP, from 0.7 per cent last year; and next year could see still further expansion if imports continue to grow faster than exports, as seems likely.

Reserves are not the chief factor underpinning international confidence in an economy, as the RBI feels. Indonesia has reserves of \$13.3 billion, Malaysia \$25 billion and South Korea \$31 billion. Across the spectrum, these countries command a greater degree of investor confidence. What matters more than an impressive build-up of reserves, is a stable policy environment, a current account that is more or less in balance, and a greater degree of openness. The stability of India's policy environment will soon be tested. Meanwhile, there is a great deal to be said for allowing easier imports, because this is necessary to make the economy competitive to the point where faster export growth is assured.

Is the RBI being complacent about the medium-term future? If one assumes that the economy will be in reasonably safe hands, probably not. But it must not be forgotten that there is an election round the corner, whose results may not return the same hands to power. And as the country discovered to its cost in 1991, a specific set of political circumstances, like an unstable governing coalition, along with an unforeseen external shock; like say another spurt in oil prices, could lead to a rapid worsening of the situation. India must be prepared for this, no matter how comfortable the external debt situation looks now.

Reserve Bank Warns of 'Irreversible Debt Trap'

*BK1509121795 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA
in English 14 Sep 95 p 12*

[Editorial: "A Sinking Feeling"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Alarm bells are beginning to be rung on an issue which has hitherto evoked, officially at least, expressions of mere concern. In its annual report for 1994-95, the Reserve Bank of India [RBI] has warned that the fiscal deficit in the medium term would have to be considerably lower than what is projected for 1995-96 if the government is not to be caught in an irreversible debt trap. The Apex bank says that the steep humps in the schedule of projected repayments may compel the government to resort to larger gross borrowings at relatively higher costs, thereby setting up a vicious cycle of borrowings and repayments. And what makes the borrowings particularly worrisome is that a high and growing proportion today go to cover the revenue deficit and much of the rest to finance capital investments which earn minuscule returns. Hints of an

emerging crisis had earlier come from the Planning Commission which had pointed out that, as against the 46.6 per cent of total Plan outlay envisaged to be financed by domestic borrowings, the figure was more than 50 per cent in the first three Plan years. Trends in the current year suggest that the situation is rapidly worsening. Government expenditure in the first four months has grown at twice the targeted pace for the whole year. And, in the absence of corresponding levels of buoyancy in tax receipts, the government has been forced to look to the money market and to offer ever higher rates of interest. This tightness in the money market has also pushed the government towards issuing ad hoc treasury bills well beyond the limits agreed on by the RBI and the Finance Ministry.

For the rest of the year the signs are equally bleak: the government would have to provide for the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission, and, given the current state of the bourses, perhaps have to make do with much less than the Rs [rupees] 7,000 crore targeted for raising through disinvestment of public sector shares. While the sinking fund as recommended by the Reserve Bank should help the government negotiate the repayment humps more easily, the fundamental solutions to the fiscal problem cannot but lie on the revenue and expenditure fronts. Here, a major task is to prune farm subsidies and to curb other unproductive expenditures, a task in which the government has to date singularly failed. The Agriculture Ministry has been emphatic that subsidies on electricity, water and fertiliser must continue at current, if not higher, levels. And there is an all-round reluctance to cut administrative fat. Expenditure reduction apart, there is the equally urgent need to raise the productivity of existing public investments, as also to widen the tax base and to make tax administrators more accountable. None of these proposed measures is new. What has been lacking, however, is, as Raja J Chelliah recently put it, "political courage and collective wisdom". Whether such courage and wisdom will now emerge in the wake of the RBI warning remains to be seen.

Changes in Cabinet, Ministries Announced

BK1609093095 *Delhi All India Radio Network*
in English 0245 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The portfolios of the newly inducted union ministers have been announced. A few changes in the portfolios of the other ministers have also been effected. At the cabinet level, Mr. P.S. Sangma will be the new information and broadcasting minister. Mr. G. Venkataswamy has been made the cabinet minister for labor. Changes made at the level of minister of state with independent charge are: Mr.

K.P. Singhdeo has been shifted to food processing industry, while Mr. Kamal Nath moved to textiles. The Environment and Forest Ministry has been given to Mr. Rajesh Pilot. The Coal Ministry will now be handled by Mr. Jagdish Tytler. The Ministry of Mines goes to Mr. Giridhar Gomango. Mr. Balram Singh Yadav has taken the place of Mr. Gomango as minister of state for planning and program implementation. Among the newly appointed ministers, Mr. R.K. Dhawan has been given independent charge of urban affairs and employment. Mr. Rajashekara Murthy will also hold independent charge of minister of state for surface transport.

The portfolios of the other newly appointed ministers of state are: Dr. Devi Prasad Pal, finance; Mr. G.Y. Krishnan, civil aviation and tourism; Dr. Kripasindhu Bhoi, human resource development; Mr. Akram Sher Khan gets prime minister's office and welfare; Professor (Kamsen), home affairs; Mohammad Ayub Khan, agriculture; Mr. Ram Lal Rahi, home affairs; Professor P.J. Kurien, nonconventional energy sources. Mr. S.S. Ahluwalia gets urban affairs and employment; Mr. Suresh Kalmadi, railways; Mr. Suresh Pachori, defense production and supply; Syed Sibte Razi, home affairs; Mr. Pavan Ghatewal, health and family welfare; Mr. Vinod Sharma, civil supplies and consumer affairs; Mr. Vilas Muttemwar, rural areas and employment; and Ms. Vimala Verma, departments of women and child welfare.

Other changes at the level of ministers of state are: Mr. P.M. Sayeed will be the minister of state for information and broadcasting; Dr. C. Silvera gets Industry Ministry; Mrs. Krishna Shahi moves to civil supplies, consumer affairs and public distribution system; while Ms. Selja goes to the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Meanwhile, the president has accepted the resignations of Mrs. Basva Rajeswari and four other ministers of state.

New Light Combat Aircraft Due Within 3 Months

BK1709120695 *Delhi All India Radio Network*
in English 0830 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The rollout of the first prototype of a Light Combat Aircraft, LCA, is to take place within the next three months. According to defense sources, all major systems will be tested in an integrated mode during the rollout. The actual flight of the aircraft is slated for next year.

The LCA is a multi-role fighter aircraft designed for an offensive role. The aircraft incorporates state-of-the-art technology and the latest fly by wire guidance systems. The joint technology group set up after the Indo-U.S.

defense talks in Washington recently is expected to remove the barriers to the flow of know-how from U.S. companies to the LCA project.

Iran

Jannati's Second Sermon Views 'Enemy's Influence'

LD1509155995 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program in Persian*
1030 GMT 15 Sep 95

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, secretary of the Guardian Council, at Tehran University on 15 September — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] I want to speak about the speech of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i to the honorable Friday imams [on 11 September]. His words were very worthy. In summary, he said: The enemy attacks us from different places. Sometimes from the east, sometimes the west, south, or north — from various places. Whenever he sees there is a weakness on the borders, whenever he sees the vigilant presence of Hezbollah forces is missing, that is where he starts his attack. And we have to be careful, just as the army that guards the borders, we have to be careful and keep watch to see from where the enemy is infiltrating so that we can block the enemy's influence.

He also said they are trying to weaken the spirit of the people, they are trying to create a feeling of hopelessness among the people. They are trying to dishearten the people with respect to those who serve them. They are trying to create enmity and differences among this faithful, Muslim ummah. They want to separate the people from the ulema and the officials. If we do not eliminate this dangerous phenomena, it will create huge problems for us in the future.

Everyone should be aware. The people should look for the reasons behind what is said and written. What do they mean? Who are they helping? Who and which system uses this? Who benefits from their words and deeds and who loses out? We have to be very careful, especially about those who have the gift of gab. [passage omitted]

A revolution took place in this country, a miracle took place in this country. No fair person, even some unfair ones, can deny that what took place here was, above all, similar to a miracle. In other words, throwing the U.S. out, humiliating and exposing the United States, finding the U.S. lackeys and handing them over to revolutionary courts of justice, or the lackeys being forced to escape justice and the creation of a 100-percent and popular Islamic government with the leadership of the clergy

was really a miracle. [Crowd chants: "God is Great," "Khamene'i is the Leader," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"] [passage omitted]

Some people will not keep silent. This revolution and this system does not suit certain people, both here and abroad. The enemies abroad are well known: the United States, Western countries, and a number of eastern ones. They are not happy with this movement, this victory, and this country that is standing up like a man.

There are others inside the country who are evil. They cannot tolerate this system and this situation for various reasons; and one of the reasons for this is jealousy, pure jealousy, and one can clearly see this. [passage omitted]

They see that the clergy have become dear to the people. They see the clergy have a high position in society. They see that as a blessing of the revolution, self-sacrifice, giving martyrs, going to prison, etc., the clergy naturally took power. The leadership of the revolution was with the clergy, and naturally, leadership is power. The clergy was guiding the revolution and power is at the hand of the leader. This lofty position and power is too much for them, they cannot tolerate it. They are asking: Why should you have such a high position, and not me? I have studied, I went to university, but studied a different subject, why should you have such a high position and not me?

This is what they are asking, in between their words, they have been saying this. I do not know why some people do not see this. [passage omitted]

Another issue is creating a rift: deliberately separating Shiites from the Islamic community — mostly abroad, but somewhat inside the country, too — in favor of the United States; to cut this body [Islam] to shreds, in the U.S.'s favor.

They see that this country is liked by others. They see that our movement has been an inspiration for Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, and other Islamic countries. They see that the Palestinians have risen and set their hearts on us. They see that our support and backing saved Afghanistan from the Russians. They see all that.

They want to separate them from us, to accuse us under various pretexts, so that they will no longer have our support and backing. Once their support is gone, they cannot rely on anything and cannot continue their struggle.

The other issue concerns Bosnia. You have heard the news that things are currently being done to address the issue. Nonetheless, when one thinks about the objectives of the satanic policies [of the United States], one gets a sad and bleak feeling.

The Americans are really only after solving their own problems. The Americans are only trying to get enough votes to get reelected. They are only after more votes, and they want people to think they have succeeded at something and are worthy of obtaining votes. It is on this basis that they have put forward a plan on Bosnia that is detrimental to the Muslims. This plan has many clauses, one of which says that the Muslims have to give up Gorazde, which is a Muslim town. Another clause says that Sarajevo must be administered under UN supervision. What is the reasoning behind this clause? I really do not know. There are also other clauses that are similar in nature. Furthermore, the Muslims are now to receive a smaller share of territory.

On the one hand, this constitutes a blow to the Muslims, on whom the plan is being imposed. On the other hand, they think that by obtaining a number of signatures under the agreement, they have managed to solve their problems and can then go on their radio and television stations and claim they have succeeded in solving the Bosnian problem, a problem which despite many years of effort, nobody else — including Europe, etc. — has been able to solve. They think that then they can ask for and get the people's votes.

They should know, however, that the agreement will certainly not last because it is unjust and tyrannical, and things based on injustice cannot survive. This is the real issue. As I said earlier, it is clear that even if the agreement is signed, it still will not be a document that will prove binding. Perhaps none of the parties will stick to it, especially the Muslims who have lost out because of it.

The Muslims should really do some thinking. The Organization of Islamic Conference must think of something. The time is now ripe for efforts aimed at saving the Muslims from their plight.

The Iraqi issue is my last subject. Well, you saw that they [the Americans] were engaged in a military campaign in the Persian Gulf for a long time. It was clear that they have no good intentions. The pretexts they were raising — Iraq intends to attack and take such and such a place, aggress against such and such a place — everyone knew they were lying; and they knew it themselves. But their impudence is such that they can easily tell whopping lies. Now it has become clear that they planned to dismember Iraq, and they may not have abandoned that plan either — to once more create something like a second Israel in the region so that there may be a cancerous growth forever in the way of Iraq, Turkey, Syria, and their neighboring states — Kuwait — regional states. This is truly dangerous. If such a plot is implemented, all those states will face difficulties for

many years to come — the same problems that Israel has created and for which there is no end in sight. Just like that problem.

These are what the leaders of those states, those neighboring states, Muslims in those states and all those politically aware, as well as all those who care for humanity and even non-Muslims, must be aware of. [passage omitted]

Everyone must oppose this plan, must declare their objection and not allow the plan to be implemented. Neutralize the plan. We hope — under the auspices of the blood of those Muslims that was spilled in Iraq, spilled over here and for the sake of the sanctified shrines in Iraq — that, God willing, the Almighty rid all Muslims and this region of the United States, Israel, and other hooligans as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

U.S. Position on Sanctions Issue Discussed

LD1809051895 Tehran IRNA in English
0509 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 18, IRNA — Any country which is after a greater share in today's world market must cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran, said the daily TEHRAN TIMES here Monday [18 September].

The English-language daily in its editorial commented on the new plan of the U.S. congressmen to pressure the Clinton administration to discuss the issue of sanctions with U.S. trade partners and report to the executive branch within three months.

Referring to the geopolitical location of Iran which endowed it with intrinsic as well as extrinsic values, the paper noted that the country "oversees the whole Persian Gulf region which, by virtue of its oil, is the lifeline of the industrial world."

"Iran is the gateway to Central Asia and the Caucasus. It is clear that access to the two regions via Iran is the most economical. Hence, any country interested in dealing with these regions has to rely on Iran," the paper noted.

It stressed that Iran is the most powerful country in the Persian Gulf region. "It is also the most stable country with top security. It is, therefore, the safest place for foreign investment."

Referring to plenty of Iran's oil and natural gas reserves, the paper urged that any world country needed Iran, if it was to find a greater share in present world's market.

After Clinton's trade embargo against Iran, almost all world countries, including Russia, China, Japan and

some European nations, have implicitly announced that trade relations with Iran must continue, noted the paper, adding the U.S. has once burnt its finger: it had better not try again.

It is time the U.S. statesmen recognized Iran's special position in the international arena and respect her values instead of defying it, said the paper in conclusion.

Ministry Condemns Israeli Attacks in Lebanon

LD1609173095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a telephone conversation with the Islamic Republic News Agency, the spokesman of our country's Foreign Ministry has strongly condemned the recent barbaric attacks of the Zionist regime against the defenseless people of southern Lebanon and described them as another manifestation of the inherent characteristics of the illegitimate Zionist regime.

Mr. Mahmud Mohammadi referred to kidnappings and the killing of defenseless children, women, and civilians in Lebanon and said: It has become clear to everyone now that the Zionist regime's claims that it wants peace have no meaning other than the continuation of the iron fist policy. He called on all international organizations to seriously confront the Zionist regime's ever-increasing crimes.

Tehran Ready To Provide 'Personnel' for Bosnia

LD1709085895 Tehran IRNA in English 0841 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA — Iranian defence minister, back home from an OIC contact group meeting on Bosnia in Malaysia, said here on Sunday [17 September] that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to provide personnel or military units for peace seeking forces if any request was made by the United Nations.

The defense minister accompanied Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a joint meeting of foreign and defense ministers of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) held in Kuala Lumpur September 14-15.

Upon his arrival at Tehran airport, Defence Minister Mohammad Foruzandeh in a talk with reporters referred to the UN weakness in fulfilling its task towards Bosnia and said any peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina should fully preserve sovereignty and territorial integrity of that country.

Pointing to the humanitarian, economic and defensive needs of Bosnia, he added that in the Kuala Lumpur

meeting the participants became further acquainted with the current Bosnian affairs and agreed to render further assistance to the republic.

On the special meeting of military commanders of the participating countries, Foruzandeh said the meeting agreed on mobilizing assistance for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He added that countries which took part in the meeting came to the conclusion that Bosnia-Herzegovina should be more supported in order to help the country enjoy a powerful and balanced stance.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Egypt, Pakistan, Senegal, Turkey, Maghreb and Saudi Arabia make up the 8-member Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Foreign Minister Supports Aid for Bosnia

LD1509101995 Tehran IRNA in English 0948 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sept. 15, IRNA — Iran would support World Bank assistance for reconstructing war-ravaged Bosnia-Herzegovina, said Iranian Foreign Minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati in his meeting here Friday [15 September] with his Bosnian counterpart, Mohamad Sacirbegovic.

Both foreign ministers expressed their satisfaction over the results of joint meetings held by the ministers of foreign affairs and defense of the Contact Group of the organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in the Malaysian capital.

They termed as "fruitful" the continuation of such cooperation in establishing peace and equilibrium in the Balkans.

The meeting reviewed the latest political and military situation in Serb-aggressed Bosnia as well as the latest developments in various aspects of war and peace.

The OIC Contact Group is made up of Iran, Malaysia, Turkey, Egypt, Senegal, Maghreb, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

Iran's Minister of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, Mohammad Foruzandeh, is also participating in the meeting.

Commentary Views Impact of NATO Air Strikes

LD1609203895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 16 Sep 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NATO officials, on Friday, 16 September, announced that there is evidence that

the Serbs are starting to withdraw their weapons from around Sarajevo. It is to be noted that the Bosnian Serbs announced on Thursday that should NATO air raids end for 72 hours, they would pull out their weapons from the 20-kilometer radius exclusion zone around the Bosnian capital Sarajevo.

Political analysts maintain that despite the Western political circles' optimism over the agreement, the withdrawal of weapons with calibers higher than 100 millimeters is not the only condition that NATO deems necessary for establishing security in the Bosnian capital. This comes at a time when any failure to demilitarize the surrounding areas around Sarajevo would pose a further threat on the side of the Serbs to the city. At any rate, the propaganda launched to thank the Serbs' measures for a partial withdrawal of their weapons has paved the ground, both politically and psychologically, to have the sanctions against Serbia be lifted. This is at a time when the persistence of such blows, though on a small basis, could make the Serbs respect all UN Security Council's resolutions concerning the raging war in Bosnia.

On the other hand, under conditions when political experts consider any international pressure against Serbia a major factor to convince Serb political and military kingpins by Belgrade, a six-month extension of international sanctions against Serbia is regarded as a reward to the Serbs and the regime in Belgrade, and political experts have a pessimistic view to this measure of the Security Council, saying that the UN Security Council's support for the easing of Serb sanctions would have a negative impact on the diplomatic efforts made to contain the Bosnian crisis. [sentence as heard]

The fact of the matter is that White House intervention in the Bosnian crisis is closely linked to the approaching U.S. elections and a close competition between the Republicans and the Democrats to make the most out of the ongoing developments in Bosnia — such rivalries between the two parties are in fact mooting Washington's policy in Bosnia.

At any rate, the events taking place in Bosnia-Herzegovina have nothing to do with the agents of such atrocities, for the stationing of NATO with Russian military forces instead of UN peacekeepers actually demonstrates the tough rivalry among the countries struggling for their interests in the Balkans. Therefore, an end to the NATO air-raids under the pretext of the Serbs' acceptance of the NATO conditions is an excuse for carrying out a new plan with new alien actors in the Balkan crisis.

Foreign Minister Returns From OIC Meeting

LD1709083495 Tehran IRNA in English
0559 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned home Sunday [17 September] morning after attending a ministerial session of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

En route to Tehran, Velayati who led a high-ranking political delegation, had a stopover in Muscat, Oman, where he met with Oman's Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

Upon his arrival at Mehrabad airport, he told reporters that following the Contact Group meeting in Geneva, the Islamic states decided to exploit all their potentials to defend Bosnian people.

Therefore, he added, the Kuala Lumpur meeting was held to discuss the settlement of crisis in the Muslim-populated Bosnian republic.

The Islamic countries came to the conclusion that political support for Bosnia was not enough, rather a military balance needed to establish lasting peace in the republic, he underlined.

Velayati stressed that if the existing plans were not put into action, they would soon be forgotten and the Serbs would perpetuate their crimes.

During his stopover in Muscat, Velayati conveyed President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's verbal message to Sultan Qabus and voiced his happiness over the sultan's good health following a car accident.

In the meeting, Sultan Qabus said that Iran and Oman enjoy profound friendly relations, adding that the two countries' close relations call for promotion of bilateral ties in all fields.

Expressing satisfaction over expansion of relations between the two countries, Velayati termed bilateral cooperation as positive.

The latest regional and international developments as well as issues discussed at the OIC Contact Group meeting were also reviewed by the two officials.

Meanwhile, Velayati met with Omani state minister for foreign affairs, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi.

Bilateral relations as well as different ways to strengthen regional cooperation were among major issues discussed by the two ministers.

Speaker Discusses Iraq, Friendship With Kuwait

LD1709113895 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0930 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri met members of the Iran-Kuwait parliamentary friendship group this morning. He said the establishment of the group was a step to expanding relations between Iran and Kuwait and emphasized the exchange of parliamentary experiences between the countries.

The Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles then referred to regional developments, particularly the situation in Iraq, and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran seeks the preservation of the independence and territorial integrity of Iraq. Iran sees any effort to disintegrate Iraq as detrimental to the Iraqi nation and regional countries' interests.

During the meeting, Ghannam 'Ali al-Jumhur, the head of the Iran-Kuwait parliamentary friendship group, stressed the need for the expansion of the two countries' relations and said: Kuwait is benefiting from the Islamic Republic of Iran's economic and cultural expertise and particularly its political skill. He described the Islamic Republic of Iran as a great and powerful state and considered it necessary for other regional countries to cooperate with Tehran to safeguard stability and peace.

Khamene'i Receives Kuwaiti Delegation

LD1809143695 *Kuwait KUNA in Arabic*
1252 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tehran, 18 Sep — Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Iranian revolution, received this afternoon the chairman and members of the Kuwaiti-Iranian friendship committee at the Kuwaiti National Assembly who are currently visiting Iran.

During the meeting, which was attended by 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duwaykh, ambassador of the State of Kuwait in Tehran, Khamene'i expressed his "deep satisfaction for the development taking place" in Iranian-Kuwaiti relations, and he called for exerting "more joint efforts to make these relations more distinguished."

He pointed out that Iran and Kuwait "have succeeded over the past years in deepening their links at the different levels — thanks to the efforts of the officials in the two countries in realizing the interests of the two friendly peoples."

In a unique gesture of its kind, Khamene'i praised "the untiring and special efforts" exerted by Kuwaiti ambassador 'Abdallah al-Duwaykh to improve Iranian-Kuwaiti relations since he occupied his position about a year ago. Khamene'i said that the reciprocal visits be-

tween the officials of the two countries have noticeably increased since last year as a result of ambassador al-Duwaykh's efforts.

In the course of his review of the situation in the Arabian Gulf region, the leader of the Iranian revolution stressed that the events of the past years, the most dangerous of which was the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait "proved the falsity and vilification of the allegations of the Western media over Iran's greed and its program of military armament." Khamene'i affirmed that Iran's siding with the Kuwaiti right during the crisis of the Iraqi invasion "proved the truth of Iran's intentions towards its neighbors, and that it does not harbor ill will against anyone."

Sources of the meeting mentioned that Khamene'i strongly criticized "the Iraqi regime's aggressive policies, and the responsibility of those who caused disasters to the Iraqi people and the countries of the region." [passage omitted]

Al-Jumhur stressed the interest of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, the quarter which represents the Kuwaiti people, in "strengthening the friendship relations with the neighbor Iran." [passage omitted]

The delegation left Tehran this afternoon heading for northern Iran to tour some projects there. The delegation is expected to return to the Iranian capital 19 September.

Vice President, Pakistani Minister Discuss Issues

LD1609205495 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
1930 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] First Vice President Hasan Habibi met and conferred with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ali on Saturday [16 September]. The latest political developments in the region, especially the issues of Afghanistan and Kashmir, were discussed at the meeting.

At the meeting, the Pakistani foreign minister, who arrived in Tehran at the head of a political delegation to exchange views with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, conveyed the warmest greetings of his country's president and prime minister to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and said: Throughout the long years of jihad, Pakistan extended a great deal of help to the Afghan mujahedin; however, despite this help, the behavior of some of these groups has not been becoming.

Stressing that Pakistan had not helped the Taliban group in any way, he added: Pakistan believes that contact with all the Afghan groups is a very natural matter for all of that country's neighbors. Sardar Asif Ali

described the situation of Afghanistan as dangerous and expressed anxiety about the spreading of the fighting in that country.

The Pakistani foreign minister added: The experience of the past few years in Afghanistan has shown that the problem of Afghanistan must be solved with the all-sided cooperation of the jihadi groups.

Habibi, for his part, stressed the need for constant and continuous discussions between the officials of the two countries and said: Iran has borne a large part of the heavy burden of the displacement of Afghan refugees during these past years and it has done its utmost to help the people of that neighboring Islamic country.

The first vice president expressed regret over the attack on the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul, which led to the wounding of the ambassador and the embassy's staff, and conveyed the hope that relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan — as neighboring countries — would be good and friendly.

Mr. Habibi added: Just as the eminent leader [Khamene'i] has said, setting aside ethnic and religious affiliations of the various strata of the people of Afghanistan, they must all act with unity and solidarity toward the reconstruction of their country and toward halting fighting and fratricide.

The first vice president declared the opposition of the Islamic Republic of Iran to interference by foreigners in the internal affairs of other countries and said: We follow this principle as a general policy in the region. Habibi stressed: Afghanistan's neighboring countries must lend their assistance to solving the problems of that Islamic country, and Iran will, as in the past, not forego any humanitarian assistance.

With regards to the difficult situation in Kashmir, the first vice president expressed Iran's anxiety and, noting that tension in the region is not to the advantage of the countries of a peaceful and calm region, he expressed the hope that the problems of Kashmir would be solved through friendly negotiation and through respect for the interests of the region.

The foreign minister of Pakistan, who had arrived in Tehran on Saturday afternoon, left Tehran after the meeting.

Foreign Minister Views Afghan Crisis, Arab Ties

LD1809082495 Tehran IRNA in English
0751 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 18, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has voiced concern over the present situation in Afghanistan, saying,

"Iran is closely watching the developments in the neighboring country," a morning daily wrote on Monday [18 September].

In an interview with the English-language daily 'IRAN NEWS', Velayati said, "past experience proves that meddling into Afghan's internal affairs by foreign countries complicates the situation there."

"Pakistan assured the Islamic Republic several times that it is not interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan," Velayati said, adding, "the government in Kabul refutes what Pakistan says."

Velayati was commenting on the recent developments in Afghanistan where the group, Taleban, captured some strategically important parts of the country including the Herat province close to the Iranian border.

Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani outright blamed Pakistan for its military, moral and political support given to the Taleban. Pakistan denies the Kabul charges.

"We hope that all the neighbors...Iran, Pakistan and those situated far away from Afghanistan will keep in mind the past condition of that country and realize that the Afghans should be left alone to tackle their own affairs without any input from outside," Velayati emphasized.

Commenting on the visits to Tehran of officials of Arab countries, Velayati said, "the visits of our neighbors to the Islamic Republic are normal in the context of the recent developments in Iraq and the Persian Gulf."

Just after the crisis, Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi and Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah arrived here in Tehran for consultation with Iranian officials. Syrian Vice-President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' were also here for talks with their Iranian counterparts.

An Iraqi delegation headed by First Deputy Foreign Minister Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal arrived for talks with the Iranian officials. Just after the defection of the Iraqi officials, the United States dispatched fresh forces to the Persian Gulf under the pretext of protecting Kuwait.

Neutral observers in the region believe that the crisis was created by the United States in order to meddle into the regional affairs in a more comprehensive way. "I was in Oman yesterday (Saturday) for a brief visit to the sultanate for talks with the foreign minister there... the exchange of visits will result in the expansion of Iran's ties with its neighbors particularly the Arabs," Velayati told the paper.

Velayati also underlined the importance of bilateral and trilateral talks for cooperation in economic and commercial areas and hoped that negotiations between Iran, Armenia and Turkmenistan will produce better result.

The trilateral talks are to start today in Yerevan for which Velayati, heading a high-ranking Iranian delegation, left for Armenia yesterday evening. He said that similar multilateral talks such as the one Iran held with Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Ukraine are important for regional cooperation.

President Returns From West Azerbaijan Visit

*LD1809072095 Tehran IRNA in English
0707 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 18, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani wound up his five-day visit to west Azarbaijan province and returned here late Sunday night.

During his tour of the northwestern province, the president inspected different cities, met with provincial people and inaugurated several great development projects.

A number of ministers, president's executive deputy, some Majlis deputies and a number of other civilian and military officials accompanied the president in his tour.

Prior to his departure from the province, President Rafsanjani inaugurated the largest veterinary college in the Middle East in the city of Orumiyeh.

The college has the capacity of admitting 800 to 1,000 students per year in its various sections.

President's Trip To Western Azerbaijan Viewed

*LD1709200895 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1704 GMT 17 Sep 95*

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Western Azerbaijan Province and his sincere, enthusiastic meetings with the people of the various towns of that province are seen by analysts as the beginning of a great change in that part of the country; in other words, the trip, which has been accompanied by the inauguration of numerous economic and social projects and visits by the president to other projects that are in progress, is of great importance in political and economic terms, as well as in terms of the people's welcoming reception.

From the political and security point of view, the trip is being undertaken to an area of the country's territory, parts of which were — during the early days after the

victory of the Islamic revolution — the parade ground of the agents of arrogance, chosen to create insecurity and to fulfill their evil designs, such that — quite apart from the absence of peace and calm for the people of the region — it had become impossible to carry out any kind of infrastructure projects there.

Now, too, within a short time and on the other side of the borders, insecurity in the Kurdish regions of Iraq and Turkey has brought about complex military and political problems for the governments of those countries.

In such circumstances, our country's president turns up in the middle of warm and sincere crowds in West Azerbaijan Province, consisting of Kurds and Turks and Sunnis and Shias, and spends many hours with them and talks to people who — in the president's words — have created calm and stability in the region through their sense of fellow feeling with the country's officials.

This is why President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visits to towns like Mahabad, Piranshahr, Naqadeh, and Sardasht reveal, more than any thing else, the security existing in the region and the people's support for the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The results of the trip are, however, also important from the economic point of view, since numerous economic and social projects have been inaugurated during the trip, the overall benefits of which have been the exploitation of the region's potential, greater employment opportunities and, in general, the economic and social growth and development of West Azerbaijan Province. [passage omitted]

Finally, the president's trip to that region and the people's enthusiastic reception of him can be seen as a renewed pledge of allegiance between the people and the officials who are pursuing a joint goal; that is, honor for the nation and the exaltation of the Islamic revolution, and there is no doubt that this joint goal is only possible in conjunction with true democracy and the existence of an effective role for the people so that they may participate in social affairs.

Taking into consideration the undeniable fact that our country's officials enjoy such an elevated popular position in every part of our Islamic homeland can be of great significance for the so-called defenders of democracy in the world, familiarizing them with the reality of the sense of fellow feeling between the people and officials in Iran and with the meaning of the realization of infrastructure projects through the wishes and at the hands of popular forces.

Tehran, UK Aree 'in Principle' on Debt Deal

LD1609135295 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1224 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Sep 16 (IRNA) — The British Government's Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) confirmed Friday [15 September] that an agreement in principle had been made to settle Iran's pre-revolution debts and talks on more recent amounts could start next month.

A spokesman described the agreement as "clearing a major stumbling block," saying that there was only the technical issue outstanding of how payment would be made.

One of the conditions of the deal was understood not to disclose the compromise figure agreed in the settlement, which according to banking sources quoted by MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC DIGEST was about dlr 30 million from debts regularly estimated at around dlr 100 million.

Once payment is made, ECGD expected talks to begin with Iran's central bank on recently accumulated debts, estimated to be around another dlr 30 million.

Short-term debts of some dlr 500 million without ECGD cover were cleared in a separate agreement earlier this year in a rescheduling arrangement organised by Credit Suisse of Switzerland over five years.

Clearing all outstanding amounts could pave the way for the resumption of medium-term cover, suspended by ECGD in 1992, but the spokesman said that this would not necessarily be automatic.

Indication this week from the foreign office is that the UK may be preparing for a further deterioration in relations with Iran after attempting to undermine efforts by the European Union to improve ties.

Suggestions are that any delay in restoring insurance cover may be used as a political tool, but one which is likely to rebound about British exporters unable to gain credit for Iran.

Foreign Ministry Rejects Accusations by Algeria

LD1509171095 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
1630 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has strongly rejected the recent accusations of the Algerian prime minister against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to the Central News Unit, Mr. Mahmud Mohammadi, an adviser to the foreign minister, today

described as baseless the recent allegation by the Algerian prime minister, who had accused Iran of supporting terrorism. Mr. Mohammadi said: The Islamic Republic of Iran does not interfere in the internal affairs of Algeria.

He said: It would be better for the Algerian Government to stop running away from reality, stop trying to divert public opinion from internal problems, stop trying to divert attention from the fact that it cannot administer its country, and stop trying to blame others for its difficulties. It would be better if the Algerian Government honored public opinion and took into account the legal and democratic wishes of the Algerian people so as to improve the situation of the country.

Jannati's Friday Sermon Discusses Stopping 'Vice'

LD1509173095 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
1030 GMT 15 Sep 95

[First Friday sermon by Iranian Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, secretary of the Guardian Council, head of the Islamic Publicity Organization, and Ayatollah Khamene'i's representative for Bosnian Affairs, at Tehran University on 15 September — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I urge you to observe piety. I urge you to abide by God Almighty's instructions. [passage omitted]

People should engage in the Propagation of Virtue and Prohibition of Vice. We should stop vice. We should prohibit vice. We should not lay back and think that the country's security forces and the Basijis will stop such acts. That is of course their duty, so far they [security forces] have performed their duties in many occasions, they have acted very well in many cases and I ought to praise their efforts. But they should be more vigilant and members of the public should also not forget their duty to prohibit vice. What is wrong if some Hezbollahi children, Muslims, and devoted persons stop a wedding ceremony in which they see the principles of chastity and religion violated? Just the same as when some people block the road in protest of their problems — of course I do not want to say that this is a justifiable act or not — I also think that people should block the road for legitimate purposes. They should ask why some people are corrupting the society's ethics. [passage omitted]

General Announces Plans for Sacred Defense Week

LD1709085795 *Tehran IRNA in English*
0758 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA — Commander of Basij (volunteers) forces Brigadier Gen-

eral 'Ali Reza Afshar here Saturday [16 September] announced programs arranged by the Basij forces for the sacred defence week.

He said that thousands of Basij forces would take part in a grand maneuver to be carried out in Tehran on September 26-28.

The forces will also have exercises for two days in different parts of the country on the same occasion.

Basij forces will pay tribute to the war martyrs on September 28, he said, adding that graves of martyrs will be showered with flowers on the same day.

The commander added that a number of large Basij exhibitions will also be held on the occasion of the sacred defence week throughout the Islamic country.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) have provided special programs to be aired during the week, Afshar stated.

Parade of Basij forces in different provinces will also be among other programs of the sacred defence week, he concluded.

Navy Begins Using New 'Sophisticated' Systems

*LD1709213595 Tehran IRNA in English
2100 GMT 17 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bandar-e Abbas, Hormuzgan Prov., Sept. 17, IRNA — Four sensitive and sophisticated systems used in navies, designed by Iranian experts, were put into operation here recently, a military official announced here Saturday [16 September].

Head of research and self-sufficiency campaign center at first region of the Islamic Republic Army's naval forces Hassan Hojabri said the systems included tri-plan sets, composed of reflector, sonar and radar reflector.

Pakistan

Bhutto, OIC Secretary General Discuss Bosnia

*BK1809030095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 1600 GMT 17 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] secretary general, Dr. Hamid Al-gabid, called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad today. He apprised the prime minister of the decisions of the OIC conference on Bosnia recently held in Kuala Lumpur to help Bosnia in its self defense against Serb aggression.

The prime minister said a coerced solution against the desire of a nation is an anachronism in the prevalent democratic awakening, and the Serb action will only exacerbate the situation.

The increasing Indian brutalities and worsening situation in Indian held Kashmir also came under discussion during the meeting.

CIA Seen as Threatening Country's Nuclear Program

*BK1609115895 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 16 Sep 95
p 10*

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Nuclear Program — Threats and the Need for Safeguards"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Addressing journalists at the National Press Club in Washington, CIA Director John M. Deutch expressed confidence that the CIA will destroy Pakistan's nuclear program through a secret operation, which will be executed in a manner that Washington cannot be held responsible for. In this context, he also said the CIA will increase its influence among the local ruling political circles, aristocracy, security system, and nongovernmental organizations.

Pakistan has declared repeatedly and categorically in both national and international forums that Islamabad does not intend to join the nuclear arms race in this region and that its nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes. It has even gone one step further and announced that if India is ready to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), then Pakistan will have no objection in doing so; and that so long as India does not sign the NPT, Pakistan will not take any unilateral step that will be prejudicial to its national security needs. In spite of that, it seems, the United States — raising the slogan of only I and nobody else after the disintegration of the Soviet Union — has made Islamic countries its special target to fulfill its ambition to foist its new world order on the entire world. After having Isreal destroy Iraq's nuclear power, a war was imposed that led Iraq to the brink of economic disaster. The entire Jewish lobby has also been waging a hostile campaign against Iran by accusing it of acquiring nuclear technology, sometimes from Pakistan and sometimes from Russia.

Even though Pakistan has not yet produced any nuclear bomb, it possesses the capability and technical know-how to do so. The United States and its allies, however, do not want to see any country in the Muslim world possessing a nuclear weapon or, for that matter, even the technological capability to produce one.

The threat hurled by the CIA director cannot be wished away. Therefore, the government should make foolproof arrangements to safeguard the country's nuclear program and also keep a close watch on the activities of the circles and organizations mentioned above by the CIA director.

Extension of Army Chief's Tenure Discussed

*BK1509093295 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu
13 Sep 95 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad—According to reliable sources, a decision is being made to extend the chief of the Army staff's tenure of service by one year; it will now be four years rather than three. General Abdul Waheed, current chief of the Army staff, will also benefit from this decision, which has been made in principle. His tenure of service expires 1 January 1996; thus, he will receive a service extension until 1 January 1997.

It may be recalled that the Army chief's tenure was not fixed prior to the late Gen. Mohammad Ziaul Haq's service. Gen. Ziaul Haq established it himself. Now, however, President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has decided to extend the chief's tenure from three to four years. In our neighboring country, India, the chief of staff's tenure was established at three years from the very beginning.

Disputed Afghan Territory Becomes Part of Country

*BK1609131395 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu
29 Aug 95 Pp 1, 5*

[By "News Reporter"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Peshawar — It has been learned that some 3 million people from the disputed territory comprising La'lpur, Kameh, (Baradrah), and (Soghri Chena) near Mohmand Agency along the Pakistan—Afghanistan border have decided to accede to Pakistan. With this, the disputed territory, spread over 40 sq km, has also become the part of Pakistan. As a result, the people will be able to reach Jalalabad through this territory in addition to the existing Towr Kham Highway. However, it has also been learned that the Afghan Government, too, has decided to provide various incentives and concessions to the people in this territory to keep them from acceding to Pakistan. It is busy convincing the people to revise their decision and come back into Afghanistan's fold, as the aforementioned territory is of great strategic importance to both countries.

Haji Abdur Rahman, the senate member from Mohmand Agency, said the area is very backward but they have tried to meet the people's daily needs on a self—help basis. They have also suggested sending a development package to the government for providing basic amenities to the people, for which approximately 200 million rupees will be required.

The senator said that after the accession of this territory to Pakistan, the Pakistani currency became the means of transaction and the circulation of the Afghan currency stopped. He said with the accession of this territory to

Pakistan, the people will be able to reach Jalalabad easily through Mohmand Agency, just as they have been doing through Towr Kham in the Khyber Agency. However, even after the accession, the people of this area strongly object to establishing Frontier Corps' posts there, which may adversely affect the situation. He said the accession of this territory to Pakistan has added considerable strength to the country's defensive position. However, the Afghan Government, through its agents, is also motivating the local people to again proclaim their loyalty to Afghanistan.

Minister Stresses Resolve To Eliminate 'Terrorism'

*BK1809043295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, the interior minister, has said the sacrifices of the innocent people of Karachi will not be in vain because the present government is determined to eliminate terrorism. Talking to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Islamabad, he said the government will thwart the plans of the subversive elements to kill people and completely eliminate the Altaf Group's criminal activities. He said the security agencies have been alerted to foil the nefarious designs of antisocial elements.

Meanwhile, Sindh Governor Kamal Azfar has said the patriotic people of Karachi want to see an early restoration of peace in the city. The government is trying to improve the situation with their cooperation. Talking to a delegation of bankers in Karachi, he said the situation in Karachi is gradually improving. He added that even industrialists have expressed satisfaction at the current law and order situation in the city.

Bhutto, Chief Negotiator Discuss Karachi Situation

*BK1709140195 Islamabad PTV Television Network
in English 1300 GMT 17 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peace and restoration of law and order in Karachi are the vital concerns of the government, which shall be achieved through a political, negotiated settlement. This was stated by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto while talking to Professor N.D. Khan, who is heading the government negotiating team. Prof. N.D. Khan briefed the prime minister on vital issues and informed her that the agenda for the next round of negotiations commencing from 19 September in Islamabad will be expatiated with the respective points of view that came out during the last round of talks. The prime minister expressed her satisfaction over the progress of negotiations and directed that the issue should be settled with equanimity to bring back peace and normalcy in Karachi.

Progress of Government-MQM Talks Viewed*BK1509123495 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST
in English 15 Sep 95 p 6*

[Editorial: "MQM's One-Point Formula"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to press reports the MQM's [Muhajir Qaumi Movement's] negotiating team in the course of the 8th round of talks with the government has presented the latter with a one-point formula; terming it as a 'short-cut' to a settlement. Both sides are now committed to 'quiet diplomacy' and have refused as such to elaborate on the proposal. However, the MQM chief negotiator, Ajmal Dehlvi in an informal chat with newsmen after the talks has indicated, reportedly, that central to the formula is the MQM demand that the cases against Altaf Hussain and other leaders of the party be withdrawn. Underlining the importance the MQM attaches to the acceptance of the one-point formula, Dehlvi has pointed out that this demand, in any case, forms a part of its 18-point charter of demands and hinted at the possibility of the party's signing a political accord with the government in the even of its proposal being accepted. On the other hand, there is no indication from the government side that it is willing to consider such a proposal seriously. If anything, to the contrary: the Interior Minister, Nasirullah Babar, reiterated the government's hard line Wednesday that the federal government was forcefully pursuing the case of Altaf Hussain's repatriation and more documentary proof was being handed over to the Interpol in this regard. Further, the minister has said that the repatriation of an MQM activist, Javed Langa, allegedly in India, was also being sought.

Meanwhile, the government seems quite convinced that its strategy of separating politics from terrorism and first taking care of the latter is working. In an interview Wednesday to a UAE [United Arab Emirates] daily the Federal Law Minister N.D. Khan, who heads the government team in talks with the MQM emphasised that the operation being conducted by the Police and Rangers in Karachi had been successful in controlling violence in the city. A day earlier, Sindh's governor, while talking to journalists, made much the same point — adding that the efforts will have to be continued for some months before peace and tranquillity can be fully restored to Karachi. The government must wake up to the fact that it needs to take some interim measures in order to ensure against the situation deteriorating, yet again. If it remains disinclined to accept the MQM's one-point formula regarding withdrawal of cases against MQM leaders, it needs to take a major initiative to convey to Karachi's residents in clear terms the message that it is not relying solely on force to resolve the issue.

Such an initiative could come, not least, in the form of an announcement for the holding of local bodies polls to be preceded by necessary arrangements for ensuring the broadest possible participation, across ethnic and sectarian lines. Such a political process at the grassroots level could, among other things, activate the process of healing within the community, even as the MQM and the government negotiate the sticking points of a mutually acceptable package. The alternative is likely to be further alienation at a general level the consequences of which in the long run should not be ignored by the government while it focuses its energies on the task of tackling the menace of violence in Karachi.

Treason Charge Against Nawaz Sharif Withdrawn*BK1409164195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 1600 GMT 14 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The federal government today withdrew the authority of the home secretary, Punjab, to file complaints under the High Treason Act after exit of Mr. Manzoor Wattoo from the office of chief minister, Punjab. The withdrawal came after the prosecution counsel stated before the special court in Lahore today that the prosecution be permitted to withdraw the charge of high treason from the complaint filed against Mr. Nawaz Sharif and others by the provincial government of Mr. Manzoor Wattoo. The court allowed the prayer of the prosecution. [sentence as heard]

The former chief minister, Punjab, Mr. Manzoor Wattoo, had especially asked and secured from the federal government powers to authorize the provincial home secretary to file a complaint under High Treason Act against Mr. Nawaz Sharif and others.

Opposition Leader Claims Vindication; 'False' Case*BK1609113895 Islamabad THE NATION in English
16 Sep 95 p 1*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] QUETTA — Leader of the Opposition, Nawaz Sharif has said that the treason case against him was false and fabricated which compelled the rulers to withdraw.

He said this while addressing the party workers here soon after his arrival from Lahore on Friday. Before the address, the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] (N) [Nawaz] Chief inaugurated the party's new Secretariat at the residence of Senator Sardar Yaqub Khan Nasaar. Besides, others Senators, Ch [Chaudhary] Shujaat, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah and Sardar Yaqub Nasaar also spoke on the occasion.

The Leader of the Opposition who arrived here to attend the national conference, called by JWP [Jamhoori Watan

Party) on the issues of Karachi and Sui, said that the treason case against him was fabricated. PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leaders were traitors but they instituted treason case against PML leaders, he said. 145 cases of different nature were registered against him, he added. He vowed that he would never bow down and face the cases in the courts.

The PML (N) President alleged that the Federal government had spent billions of rupees for buying loyalties of the assembly members in Punjab. He said: "We would again voted to power and would made these rulers accountable for lavish spendings of public exchequer which was collected through tax from people."

Nawaz Sharif flayed the Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for being ignorant of the Karachi problem and said that Karachi was burning, but the Prime Minister ad her husband Asif Zardari never bothered to visit Karachi while they spent a week in Lahore to bring a change in Punjab government. He said it was strange that India

was trying to disintegrate Pakistan while our rulers were trying to save India from destabilisation adding that Prime Minister Benazir herself admitted of helping former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi.

He said "we were following the footsteps of Father of the Nation in politics and felt proud of it." He said now the nation united against the rulers and would never forgive these looters and oppressors and the day was not far when PML (N) would rid the people of the country of cheaters.

Senator Ch Shujaat while addressing on the occasion said that in 1974, the PPP government bombarded Baloch areas while today again, it was trying to repeat the same drama in Sui.

He said they had come here to attend a conference to raise the issue of Sui Dera Bugti against the excesses of PPP government. Ghaus Ali Shah also speak on the occasion.